

# Government is defeated on first devolution Bill clause

The Government was defeated by 15 votes on the first clause of the Scottish devolution Bill last night. Its Liberal supporters in the Commons, as well as the Scottish and Welsh nationalists and some left-wing Labour MPs, voted against the clause, which asserted the unity of the United Kingdom, because "it made no statutory difference to the Bill".

## Liberals vote against 'unity' assertion

By Fred Emery  
Political Editor

The Government was stunned by a defeat last night in the Commons at the very outset of the committee stage of the Scotland Devolution Bill. The Bill's first clause, asserting that its provisions to set up a Scottish Assembly "do not affect the unity of the United Kingdom", was lost by 199 votes to 184.

The defeat was caused by Liberals and Scottish Welsh nationalists voting against. The Liberals held clause one to be irrelevant and yet wanted their vote to be seen as a shot across the Government's bows, showing that they should not be taken for granted.

But there was further confusion in Labour voting, with a warning from some members of the left-wing Tribune group that they would vote in both lobbies to emphasize their disgust with the Government's imposition of a whip later this week on the European Assembly Elections Bill.

Mr Tam Dalyell (Labour-West Lothian) voted with the Conservatives on their amendment; Mr William Latham (City of Westminster, Paddington), voted in both lobbies. He joined in the vote on the clause by Mr Tom Littlerick (Birmingham, Selly Oak).

That tended to confirm the defeat was no accident. There was a two-line whip on the vote, and as it approached, the Government whips took vain emergency action to locate their malingerers.

The Conservative Front Bench promptly demanded that the Government should "draw stumps", apparently meaning only an adjournment for reconsideration. But when opposition backbenchers demanded that the Bill should be abandoned, Mr Foot, Leader of the House, insisted that it would go on, amputated of its opening clause.

Parliamentary report, page 16

# THE TIMES



Rendezvous New York: The British (rear) and French Concordes cross on the runway at Kennedy airport, New York, yesterday after landing within 90 seconds of each other (the Air France aircraft first by arrangement) to open the commercial services from London and Paris.

The British Concorde was streaking from London in a record 3 hours 23 minutes, cutting the transonic crossing time by more than half, there was the first hint that the British taxpayer may begin to see a return on the £800m invested since 1962 in the supersonic project. Arthur Reed, our Air Correspondent, writes.

Mr Ross Stanton, deputy chairman

of British Airways, told the 100 passengers on board that the aircraft would break even financially with 60 per cent of the seats filled. "Above that load it will start to make enough money to remunerate the capital invested in it."

The Air France aircraft, which left Paris 11 minutes ahead of the British Concorde, took only 3 hours 50 miles ahead, as it was a British Concorde which landed first when the service to Washington was started on May 24 last year. About 50 people waving placards mounted a muted protest outside the airport protesting about Concorde's noise.

The take-off from Heathrow air-

port, London, was carefully timed to fit in with the Air France departure. The British Concorde was held at the end of the runway until a signal was received from Paris by Captain Brian Walpole, the aircraft commander, that the French Concorde had left. The four Rolls-Royce Olympus engines, each developing 38,000lb of thrust, burn as it sits on the ground at a speed of 240 mph.

Over the Atlantic at 1,350 mph and 56,000ft, we were served lunch of dressed crab, roast saddle of lamb and strawberries with Dom Pérignon 1970 champagne.

In a reference to the two years of legal wrangling before Concorde re-

ceived permission to land in New York, Mr Stanton said: "There are some New Yorkers who still see Concorde as an insidious little grub eating its way into the core of the big apple, seriously threatening the city's environment."

"During the coming months I am confident that Concorde will prove itself to be no such threat, and in the end, in the final period, it will be roundly accepted by the airport management, the regulators, the airlines and the people of New York".

Mr Stanton added that new super-sonic services could now be achieved through "a united nations of Concorde operators" to places such as

Jiddah and Kuwait, in the Middle East, Melbourne, Hong Kong, Bangkok and Tokyo, in the Far East, and to Lagos in West Africa.

Ian Murray writes from Paris: The Air France Concorde took off at 11.11 am also with 100 passengers, half of them paying the full £1,650 francs (£490) fare. The guests included M Cavaille, the Minister of Transport, M Edmond Giscard d'Estaing, the father of the President, and Pierre Cardin, the couturier.

Another of the guests was M Maurice Bellonte, aged 81, who with the late Dieudonné Costes, piloted

Continued on page 7, col 1

## Little change in jobless total despite forecast rise

By Our Economics Staff

There was practically no change in the level of adult unemployment in Great Britain in the month to mid-November. After seasonal adjustment and excluding school-leavers, the number of jobless dropped by 6,000 to 1,376,584.

The proportion out of work on this measure remained unchanged at 5 per cent of the work force.

The number of unfilled job vacancies for adults rose very slightly from the October level to 153,600 after seasonal adjustment. Since September this measure of the demand for labour has increased by 10,700.

A drop of 24,023 in the number of school-leavers who are still looking for jobs coupled with a seasonal rise in adults out of work, brought the total number on the register down by 18,620 to 1,363,984.

When Northern Ireland is included the United Kingdom total for November stands at 1,425,643. This is the first time since June that the total on the register has fallen below 1.4 million.

An apparent improvement in the labour market in the last two months is indicated by the vacancy figures and by the adjusted unemployment totals.

Last month there was a drop of 11,600 in adult jobless in Great Britain, after seasonal correction. The proportion out of work has remained steady at 6 per cent for three months.

Officials are so far refusing

Continued on page 29, col 4



Madame Tussaud at the age of 84, from an 1845 painting by Paul Fischer.

## Tussaud's rejects £9.5m offer

By Bryan Appleyard  
Financial Staff

Madame Tussaud's rejected a £9.5m offer from S Pearson and Son, the newspaper and banking conglomerate.

Mr Michael Herbert, chief executive of Tussaud's, the waxwork group, said that a cash offer of 45p a share was "totally inadequate", adding that it had come as a surprise.

The idea of an offer arose from an approach by Tussaud's to Pearson's with a view to buying Chessington Zoo. Pearson's main entertainment interest which drew 835,000 visitors last year.

Mr Michael Hare, a director of Pearson and chairman of the zoo, said the board saw the logic of the move but preferred to expand companies rather than sell them.

Hare's company's idea is that Tussaud's would be merged with Chessington to form a leisure division within Pearson and the Tussaud management would remain.

He said: "They have special skills on the non-animal side. At Chessington we have improved the animal side a great deal. The entertainment side could be easily taken in hand and developed, and they are good people to do that."

Mr Herbert, however, said he could see no commercial logic in the move. Tussaud's had been completing the deal for taking over Chessington by the end of the year and had planned to expand entertainments.

The Prime Minister rejoined that a tenth was the increase in national earnings that would enable inflation to be sustained in single figures for most of next year.

Mrs Thatcher snapped back: "So 10 per cent is not the maximum figure, and therefore the firemen would be free to negotiate with the national council within cash limits?"

Our Political Correspondent writes: On behalf of 140 Labour backbenchers, Mr Edward Fletcher, MP for Darlington and chairman of the Tribune Group handed £404 to Mr Dick Foggie, assistant general secretary of the Fire Brigades Union, last night, the day the union's strike fund. The MPs asked for some of the money to be used to relieve hardship among firemen's families.

Strike round-up, page 2  
Parliamentary report, page 16

## Vance list of 7,500 missing Argentines

Mr Vance, the United States Secretary of State, who left Argentina for Brazil yesterday is reported to have given the Argentine Government a list of

7,500 people said to have disappeared in Argentina or been arrested without legal process for political reasons. United States officials said that Mr Vance had found that the Argentine Government's atti-

tude to human rights problems had improved. An American official said: "There may be just as many people disappearing as ever, but the Government's official attitude in dealing with us makes it easier to talk". A joint communiqué after the visit also mentioned satisfaction that Britain and Argentina were negotiating about the Falklands.

Mr Sadat thanked him for his initiative in coming to Cairo to express your country's support." Some observers doubted however, whether the initiative was entirely spontaneous. Mr Nimeiry owes a debt of gratitude to Mr Sadat for helping him defeat an attempted coup in Sudan last year; and Mr Sadat is anxious to demonstrate whatever support he can find in the Arab world to counter the fierce campaign now being waged against him by Syria and two colleagues "must have missed something", including prominent head and face injuries. They found little wrong in four days of tests from September 7 to 10. He died on September 12.

School buildings 'need £1,500m'

The establishment of national priorities for school building is suggested in a Government report that estimates it would cost over £1,500m to bring the 28,000 schools in England and Wales up to acceptable modern standards. In a foreword, Mrs Williams, Secretary of State, talks in terms of needing "to concentrate a greater part of our resources for a number of years".

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Doctors 'missed' Biko injuries

A doctor who examined Steve Biko before the black leader's death in detention told the Pretoria inquest that he and two colleagues "must have missed something", including prominent head and face injuries. They found little wrong in four days of tests from September 7 to 10. He died on September 12.

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## Motorway food inquiry

An independent inquiry has been set up by the Government to investigate standards of food and other facilities in motorway service areas. Its chairman is Mr Peter Prior, chairman of the Bulmer cider group.

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Avoiding heart attacks

A high calorie intake with high energy expenditure, high intake of cereal fibre and no cigarettes seems to be little chance of a heart attack, according to the London School of Hygiene.

Science report, page 21

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## Land-use policy is criticized

A Civic Trust report criticizing land-use policies in Britain calls for legislation to make demolition without immediate plans for reuse of the site, the exception rather than the rule.

Page 6

Public cash' for voluntary bodies

The report of the Wolfenden committee of inquiry into voluntary welfare organizations argues that more public money should be channelled into such bodies because demand for their services shows no sign of diminishing.

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## Lending right to be considered

The Arts Council is to consider a non-statutory scheme of public lending right which it could administer. Miss Bridget Brophy, the author's leader, said: "The only doubt is whether the libraries would cooperate".

Page 2

The otter may be protected

The fate of the otter, which the Government wants to add to the list of protected species, will be debated by a Commons committee today. The House is thought likely to approve a protection order.

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Michael Seely on Birds' Nest's plan; Sports Council reports boom in minor sports

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Obituary page 21

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## HOME NEWS

## Pay slips emphasize plight of family men in fire service

By Craig Seton

"I wanted to put out fires and protect people," Mr Geoffrey Webb said yesterday, explaining why he had left a "poor" apprenticeship as a motor mechanic. He could manage on his take-home pay of £185 a month but he was on strike with the rest of Britain's firemen to support the men with families who could no longer afford to pay their bills.

Sitting at the side of a brazier outside the Dartmouth fire station in the City of London, Mr Webb, who is 30, says he joined the service five months ago and had three months' training before starting to fight fires.

With Mr Rees, the Home Secretary, hanging in effigy from a wall near by, Mr Webb and his colleagues produced their pay slips to show why they feel they have an indisputable case for a rise of well over the 10 per cent enshrined in the Government's pay guidelines.

Mr Webb said: "I do not know how the married blokes live, but unless we get more money now I know I shall be in the same position in a few years. I am thinking about getting engaged, but how could I manage? I could never get a mortgage."

Mr Webb's pay slip showed that his basic wage for October was £222, only £44 short of the basic rate for a colleague who has been in the service for 11 years. It is that prospect that worries young firemen and recruits who want to make fire-fighting a career.

His additional "allowances" of £51.15 are the London weighting of £41.5 a year plus travelling expenses for 40 miles each way a day. A further £13.10 pay supplement represents the settlements under phases one and two of the Government's pay policy, a policy that firemen say has destroyed their standard of living in two years.

That total payment of £286 a month is immediately reduced by £100, mainly 26.25 tax, £16.45 national insurance and £18.31 superannuation.

Mr Webb and his colleagues concede that these allowances figure may cloud the picture and point out the only London firemen benefit. One man, it was said, received £141 in allowances, more than half his basic salary, and that might give the impression, they feared, that firemen had no claim for special treatment.

The only reason for that man's large allowance was the distance

he travelled from Brightlingsea in Essex, and it was consumed in fares. Many men, they said, had to live well outside London to be able to afford to buy houses, but they then faced enormous travelling costs.

Mr Webb said: "I do not want to leave the job, but I have a living wage. I live with my parents, so it is now so bad, but I could earn more in an unskilled job."

Station Officer James Kennedy, who has been in the service for 18 years and is married, with two children, entertained the men yesterday by playing his bagpipes. "Not a joke," he was quick to say. He played the bagpipes in his spare time to earn extra money, money he could not afford to be without.

Last month his net pay was £245.85. Was that not ridiculous? he asked, considering his experience and expertise? He is now, in the service until he retires, and determined to stay on strike as long as it takes to get a "living wage".

Mr Kennedy's basic wage is £341 a month, working a 48-hour week and his gross pay, including allowances, pay supplement and small amount of overtime, which is normally done, was £417.30 in October.

His deductions were £171.45, including £32.15 rent for his fire service accommodation at Enfield, North London. A home of his own, with a mortgage would be out of the question, he said. Tax, £60.78; national insurance £23.99 and superannuation £28.22.

Mr Michael Dawson, a fireman for nine years, also takes home between £240 and £250 a month. Married with two children, he lives in a council house, because his three attempts to get a mortgage all failed. "The GLC offered me £7,000 mortgage on my salary. What will I buy in London?" he asked.

"People must realize that the London weighting and the travelling allowances are taxed. That is why we are concerned only with our basic pay. As a fireman I am now on top pay, although after 15 years I shall get an extra 5p an hour more, that is what I have to look forward to."

The firemen said yesterday that they had dug in for a long strike. But they insisted that they could continue for 20 or 30 or even 40 days before they would contemplate a settlement on the Government's terms.

## Lack of special overtime rates a main complaint

From Ronald Kershaw

Leeds

Attitudes are hardening among Leeds firemen, who feel they have public sympathy, and that was borne out to some extent as I spoke to pickets at Leeds central fire station in Kirkstall Road. A man in a Jaguar car drew up, handed over a bottle of whisky and some packets of cigarettes and, with a smile and a wave to the pickets, drove away.

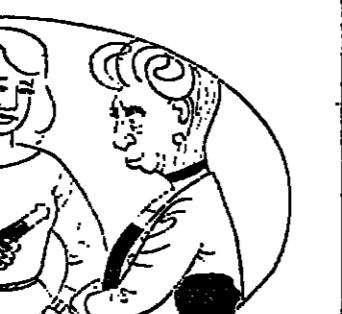
I had no produce evidence that I was from *The Times* therefore pickets would talk to me. You might be from some leftist newspaper, I was told, which tends to dispel suggestions that left-wing members are aggravating the situation.

Even so, men were reluctant to give names. One picked said: "Merely Rees is under the impression we are paid overtime as a matter of course, and that was borne out to some extent as I spoke to pickets at Leeds central fire station in Kirkstall Road. A man in a Jaguar car drew up,

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A young fireman with two years' service, married and with no children, said: "My gross wage for 48 hours is £55, and with stoppages my take-home pay is £35."



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Loved wine and was très élégante  
So sensible nieces  
Within their valises  
Took Piat, not plumes, to their tante.

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## Three-shift system for picket duty

From Tim Jones

Cardiff

No one tries to break the firemen's strike in Barry, South Glamorgan, but the 30 men who usually man the fire station in the town centre operate a three-shift system to maintain a constant picket outside the closed door.

They sit around a brazier fuelled by coal given by well-wishers. Every so often a passing shopper throws a coin into a collection bucket. Others stop to sign petition, which now

runs to several sheets, containing hundreds of names. Passing cars honk and drivers raise their thumbs in support.

One man arrived with a calculating machine and decided that if the firemen achieved their aim of a 30 per cent pay rise, they would take home £58.50. He then gave them that amount of money.

The firemen believe they have even more public support than the miners in 1974. Mr David Coles, the union official representing the Barry station, said: "Our mood is hardening,

and with it our determination. This strike has not really begun yet."

Mr Donald Cutler, a junior officer, has been with the fire service for 23 years and is sometimes responsible for running the station. "For that degree of responsibility in a high-risk area, which includes oil and chemical plants, I take home £47 a week. My daughter will soon start work for more than that amount. It makes me sick to go on strike, but now I am determined to see it through."

A rough low pressure will move S across most districts.

Forecast for 6 am to midnight:

London, SE, SW, central & East, Channel Islands: Rather cloudy, short intervals, rain later, with W wind, or strong, max temp 6°C (43°F).

East Anglia, Midlands, East Central, N England, S Wales:

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MIDDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle;

f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; a, clear.

Algeria c 1000 Casablanca c 1000 Libya c 1000

Amsterdam c 1000 Copenhagen c 1000 Oslo c 1000

Barcelona c 1000 Edinburgh c 1000 Reykjavik c 1000

Berlin c 1000 Florence c 1000 Stockholm c 1000

Brisbane c 1000 Geneva c 1000 Turin c 1000

Buenos Aires c 1000 Hamburg c 1000 Valencia c 1000

Copenhagen c 1000 Istanbul c 1000 Zurich c 1000

Edinburgh c 1000 Madrid c 1000

Fiji c 1000 Manila c 1000 Tokyo c 1000

Gibraltar c 1000 Paris c 1000

Helsinki c 1000 Rome c 1000

Hong Kong c 1000 Stockholm c 1000

Iceland c 1000 Sydney c 1000

India c 1000 Tangier c 1000

Italy c 1000 Tel Aviv c 1000

Johannesburg c 1000 Tunis c 1000

Kuala Lumpur c 1000 Tunis c 1000

London c 1000 Tunis c 1000

Mexico City c 1000 Tunis c 1000

New Zealand c 1000 Tunis c 1000

Nicaragua c 1000 Tunis c 1000

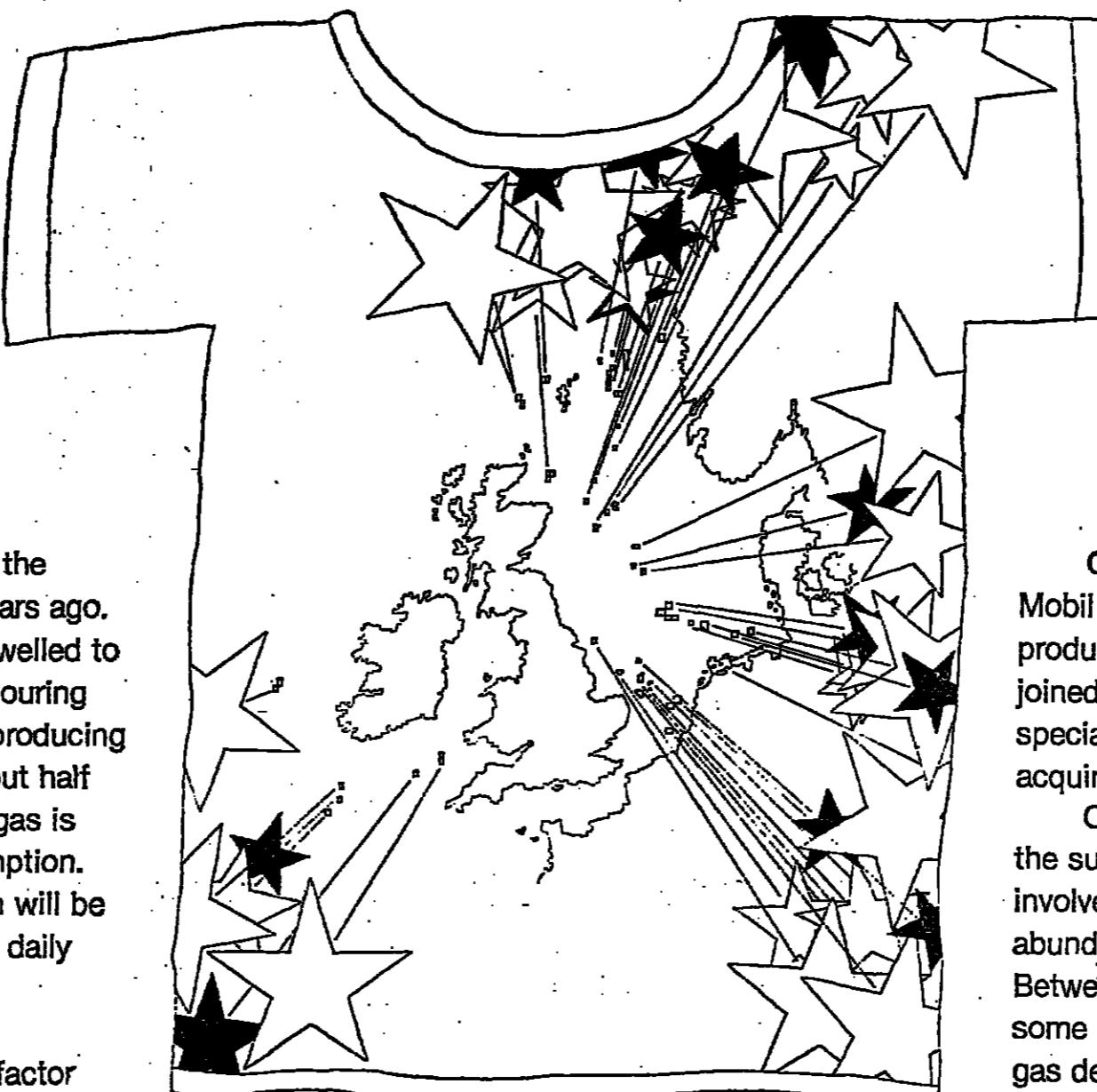
Peru c 1000 Tunis c 1000

Portugal c 1000 Tunis c 1000

Rome c 1000 Tunis c 1000

Tunis c 1000 Tunis c 1000

## "We could be Britain's most important rock group."



The first oil from the British sector of the North Sea arrived on British soil 2½ years ago. What began as a trickle has already swelled to a torrent, with some 800,000 barrels pouring into the U.K. each day from offshore producing fields. North Sea oil now provides about half the nation's requirements; North Sea gas is meeting 99 percent of current consumption.

By the end of this decade, Britain will be self-sufficient in oil, with an estimated daily production rate of 2 million barrels. Indeed, almost incredibly, the country is already on the way to becoming a factor in the world crude oil supply market.

Mobil is proud of its role in helping Britain achieve the remarkable transformation from an oil-importing to an oil-producing nation. Oil from our Beryl discovery is now providing nearly five per cent of the country's requirements. Other fields being evaluated by Mobil and its partners are expected to add to that contribution. And, of course, the search for new fields continues.

The impact of North Sea oil has profoundly affected every segment of the nation's economy. Thanks to North Sea oil, the value of British exports now exceeds the costs of goods purchased overseas, by a healthy margin. An estimated £5,000 million in taxes and royalties will flow into the Exchequer between 1977 and 1980. And by the middle of the next decade, North Sea operators will be paying some £3,500 million annually in taxes and royalties.

New industries have sprung up to provide the material and services needed to support

North Sea activities. "It is our policy to give 'full and fair opportunity' to British firms," says Mobil financial controller Bill Wende. "Over two-thirds of our material and contract service needs are provided from U.K. sources."

The services are many and varied: helicopters, which average 15 flights a week ferrying personnel and equipment between Aberdeen and the Beryl platform and offshore drilling rigs. Supply boats, to carry the estimated 3,600 tons of equipment needed for every North Sea well drilled—everything from diesel fuel to drill pipe to fresh vegetables. Caterers, to prepare and serve 900 meals a day for Beryl platform personnel.

Then, too, there are the workers themselves—who benefit directly from the jobs which North Sea oil has brought. Some 10,000 are currently employed by the industry in offshore exploration and producing activities. Several thousand more serve on pipelaying barges, crane barges and supply boats.

Over 90 per cent of those who work for Mobil in the North Sea are British. To most, oil producing was unfamiliar ground before they joined the company. Through experience and specialised training programmes, they have acquired valuable new skills.

Of course, the costs represented by all of the supplies, services, material and people involved in developing the North Sea's abundant oil and gas resources are enormous. Between 1965 and 1976 oil companies invested some £5,000 million in North Sea oil and gas developments (with perhaps as much again to be spent up to 1980), not counting the millions spent to drill unsuccessful exploration wells.

These costs, however, together with the high risks involved, should be justified by the promise the North Sea holds for making Britain self-sufficient in oil. By year's end, eight separate fields should be producing almost 1 million barrels of oil a day. These fields, together with a similar number likely to be developed, give promise of an additional 1 million daily barrels by 1980.

Long before the world's first well was drilled, American Indians used the black, sticky stuff that seeped out of the ground, for medicinal purposes. They called it 'rock oil.' Today, geologists are frequently referred to as 'rock hounds.' And our success in finding and producing oil—which we've described during the last seven weeks—depends on the presence of various rock types and formations.

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## HOME NEWS

## More state aid for voluntary welfare organizations urged

By Pat Healy

**Social Services Correspondent**  
The voluntary welfare sector is thriving despite 30 years of the welfare state, according to the Wolfenden committee report on voluntary organizations published yesterday. But the Government and local authorities should take a more positive attitude towards them because they are financially insecure, unevenly distributed and leave many needs unmet.

More public money should be paid to voluntary organizations, the committee says, because demand for welfare help of all kinds shows no sign of diminishing, and statutory services cannot go on expanding. The Government should review the roles of the official services, the voluntary bodies and the network of informal care by families, friends and neighbours with a view to helping to extend substantially the voluntary sector.

"There is an urgent need to look afresh at the whole present pattern of social and environmental services and their organization", the report says. "In some situations it may be more desirable to encourage the voluntary and informal sectors to remain or become major instruments of social services." The report is the work of a committee of inquiry, chaired by Lord Wolfenden and financed jointly by the Joseph Rowntree Memorial and Carnegie United Kingdom Trusts. It is believed to be the first overall examination of voluntary organizations for thirty years, but many bodies gave it only a qualified welcome yesterday.

Mrs Lynda Chalker, Conservative spokesman on social services, described the report as defeatist and unlikely to match the expectations the voluntary movement had held out for it. Several voluntary organizations

criticized omissions, particularly for giving little consideration to the contribution of volunteers.

The report points out that the voluntary contribution amounts to about 16 million hours of work each week, at least equal in terms of man-hours to that of all paid staff in local authority social services departments. Lord Wolfenden said yesterday that little space had been devoted to volunteers themselves because the committee's brief was to examine the organizations for which they worked.

"The report is not meant to be a blueprint for voluntary organizations for the next 25 years", he said. "What we set out to do was an assessment. It is not intended to be the last word, but the beginning of a debate for which we have tried hard to provide some of the material and some of the evidence."

The committee wants more public funds made available from existing sources. It also recommends a new departure to help give local organizations some support and to initiate bodies in more neglected areas of need. It wants the Government to devote an extra £2.5m a year to "intermediary bodies", such as local councils of social services, rural community councils, and other bodies able to help develop and support local groups.

In addition, it wants the Voluntary Services Unit, which finances organizations working across departmental boundaries, moved out of the Home Office and into the portfolio of a minister without departmental responsibilities.

**The Future of Voluntary Organizations—Report of the Wolfenden Committee** (Croft House, 2-10 St Albans Road, London SW1, hardback £6.50, paperback £2.95).

Leading article, page 19  
Quiet revolution, page 18.

## Inquiry into motorway service areas

By Alan Hamilton

The Government has set up an independent inquiry into motorway service areas after complaints from travellers.

The inquiry, which will be undertaken jointly by the Department of Transport and the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection will be chaired by Mr Peter Prior, chairman of Bulmers, the cider company. He will be assisted by Mr R. W. Davies, an industrialist, Mr George Hill, a hotel group chairman, Chief Superintendent L. R. Jones, of West Mercia police, Mr Hugh Marshall, a lorry driver, and Miss Margaret Jones, consumer-correspondent of the *Daily Mirror*. Mr Prior said yesterday he hoped to have his report ready by the end of June.

The inquiry has been asked to report on how far present facilities meet the convenience of users with regard to price, quality, variety and effective competition and on what further provision should be made. Mr Prior made clear yesterday that he regards any aspect of motorway service stations as being "within his brief". Members of the committee will set off soon to tour Britain,

often accompanying long-distance lorry drivers, and making unannounced visits to the service areas.

Mr Prior was diplomatic about his past experience of motorway eating, but confessed that he usually made his frequent business trips between Birmingham and London without stopping.

"We have read Bernard Levin and Egon Ronay on the subject, but we have also read Charles Forte", Mr Prior said, alluding to a recent correspondence in *The Times*. "We have no preconceived notions. We are aware that motorway service areas do not have a monopoly of soggy chips."

Critics of motorway food are asking what effective steps the inquiry can take to remedy matters, as most service areas are operated by contractors on a 50-year lease. They can be terminated only for gross breaches of the conditions, which require the provision of good food at reasonable prices.

The Department of Transport, which makes a formal inspection of each site once a year, has not found it necessary to terminate a lease since the first service area was opened in

## Four-year cut in sentence for pub bomber

By Hugh Clayton  
Any British government will have to keep control over EEC food prices in this country, Mr Brian Hayes, deputy secretary in charge of farm policy at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said yesterday.

"The right level for prices in this country is the right level, that is for the green pound,"

he said, referring to the rate of inflation.

Mr Hayes said that future governments would want an efficient, prosperous and growing agriculture in Britain. But he added: "The Government has a responsibility to consumers as well as producers, to the standard of living of the great bulk of the population, to the need to get inflation under control."

He was pleased that the European Commission was starting to adopt British views about the beef surplus by admitting that official Community prices had been too high.

Mr Hayes said: "One of the questions that arises is whether it was really wise to bring her back to life in the intensive care unit. Doc-

tor Lim Poh Choo, aged 41, a psychiatrist, who went into hospital for a minor operation was condemned to a dreadful fate by an anaesthetist's tragic mistake, Mr Christopher French, QC, her counsel, said in the High Court yesterday.

She suffered massive and permanent brain damage due to oxygen starvation. Mr Justice Brian said: "She would only mentally and physically disabled for the rest of her life."

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10/11/77

# Read this before your Financial Director.

It's about car rental. Or, rather, it's about money.

Hence your Financial Director's interest. And it would be much better to talk to him about it, before he talks to you about it.

What do you say? Something like this:

"Sir," (or Mr Smithers, or Ted, or You Old Skinflint—depends on the terms you're on), "we rent cars".

"And I've discovered a way to boost our profits by renting cars for far less money".

(Carry on. He's hooked).

"There's a British company called Swan National. They have 70 locations throughout the country, each operating a one-way rental system at no extra charge. Their fleet of long and short term rental cars is possibly the largest in the land. They have InterRent car rental link-ups in 33 countries. Point is, they charge less. Far less. Look".

At this point, put this table under his nose:

Taken from current tariffs : Swan National 1st June 1977, Avis 1st July 1977, Godfrey Davis 4th July 1977, Hertz October 1977.

TYPE OF CAR	SWAN NATIONAL	AVIS	GODFREY DAVIS	HERTZ
FORD ESCORT 1300L OR SIMILAR	DAILY PER MILE £4.25 (5p) UNLIMITED WEEKLY £49.45	£4.95 (5½p)	£4.95 (5½p)	£4.95 (6p) (13 GL model)
FORD CORTINA 1600L OR SIMILAR	DAILY PER MILE £5.85 (6p) UNLIMITED WEEKLY £63.05	£6.25 (6½p)	£6.25 (6½p)	£7.00 (8p)
FORD CORTINA ESTATE 1600L OR SIMILAR	DAILY PER MILE £6.75 (7p) UNLIMITED WEEKLY £72.80	£8.50 (8½p)	£8.25 (8½p)	£11.00 (11p) (GL model)
FORD GRANADA GL 1600L OR SIMILAR	DAILY PER MILE £9.75 (10p) UNLIMITED WEEKLY £109.85	£13.00 (12½p)	£12.50 (13p)	£19.00 (19p) (GHS model)

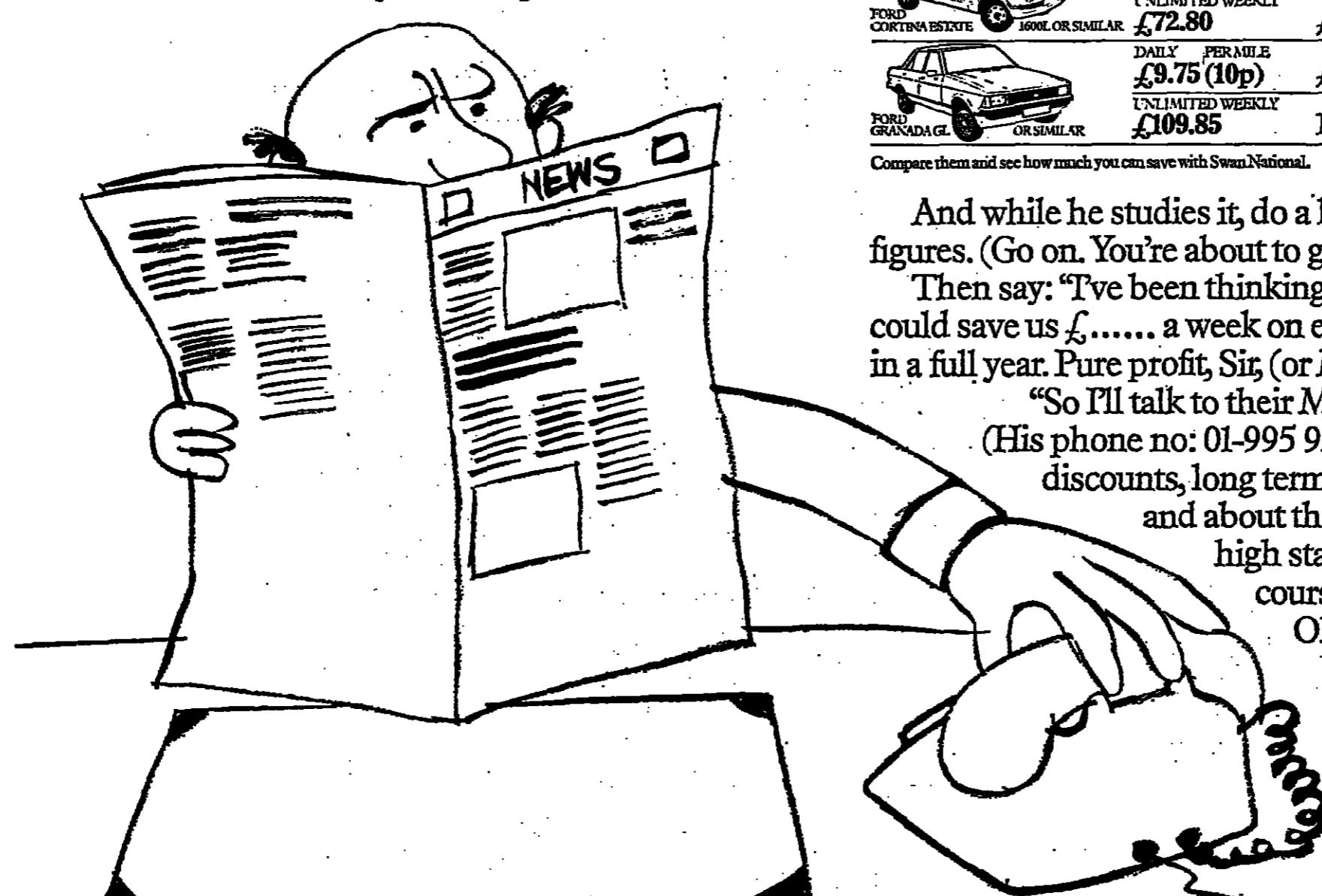
Compare them and see how much you can save with Swan National.

And while he studies it, do a little work to fill in the following figures. (Go on. You're about to get a rise, aren't you?)

Then say: "I've been thinking. We rent..... cars. Swan National could save us £..... a week on each. That's a total saving of £..... in a full year. Pure profit, Sir, (or Mr Smithers, etc.)

"So I'll talk to their Mr Grimshaw about it, shall I?"  
(His phone no: 01-995 9242). "I'll ask him about volume discounts, long term leasing, vans, credit arrangements, and about the range of cars they offer and the high standards they work to. Yes, right, of course, I'll do it this morning."

Oh... Oh, thank you, that's very nice of you, Sir (or Ted, or whatever)".



## SWAN NATIONAL



FOR YOUR NEAREST BRANCH SEE YELLOW PAGES, OR WRITE TO  
305/307 HIGH ROAD, CHISWICK, LONDON W4 4HH.

## Make the switch and make more money.

## HOME NEWS

**Trust seeks to curb speculators' demolitions**By John Young  
Planning Reporter

The law should be amended to require consent for demolition, which in turn should not normally be granted without permission for re-use of the site, the Civic Trust states in a report published yesterday.

Premature demolition is the commonest immediate reason for land becoming dormant and is sometimes used to engender an impression of progress, the trust says. "Private developers are occasionally mindful that planning permission for a new building may be easier to obtain for an ugly gap site than an occupied one."

The report also calls for rates to be levied and progressively increased on land left idle for longer than, say, two years. In contrast, encouragement to landscape or reinstate disused land should be encouraged by tax relief.

Despite its moderate language the report is an impressive statement of the failure of land-use policies and legislation to prevent the hazardous waste of an increasingly precious commodity. Photographs of urban wasteland are vividly contrasted with those of ill-conceived development on the urban fringes, which cause the loss of thousands of acres of productive farmland.

The report distinguishes between the 137,000 acres of land in England and Wales officially classified as derelict and the 250,000 acres that it estimates are merely "dormant". Whereas land made derelict by excavation and other industrial exploitation may require substantial reclamation, "dormant" land could be brought immediately into productive use.

But whereas local authorities are required to carry out regular surveys of derelict and despoiled land such surveys specifically exclude sites cleared for redevelopment. Mr Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, agreed last year that an estimate of the total amount of unused land held by local authorities, nationalized industries and related bodies could be provided only "at disproportionate cost".

To judge from questions raised mainly by non-journalists, at a news conference yesterday, the report is likely to cause much heart-searching. Mr Bernard Kaukas, environment director of the British Railways Board, which is criticized in the report, was moved to deny that the board had been neglectful of its duty and to point out that it had disposed of more than 71,000 acres in the past 13 years for about £20m.

Mr Thomas Galloway, secretary of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said local authorities did not like having empty sites all over the place. "But there are limits to what we can do within the existing restraints," he said.

The report, which is commended by Mr Shore in a foreword as "timely and independent", relies on number of sources, including the Greater London Development Plan, the government-sponsored Inner Area Studies, an independent land-use survey under the direction of Dr Alice Coleman, of King's College London, and the results of questionnaires sent to local authority societies.

Among its other recommendations are that agricultural land should not be diverted for any other purpose unless it can be shown that the new use is more important and that no alternative site is available; that road construction and improvement plans should be reviewed at least every five years; and that local authorities should grant licences for the short periods for temporary use of vacant sites they own.

Perhaps the best known empty site in Britain is the Treasury's opposite Westminster Abbey. Owned, with some embarrassment, by the Government for nearly thirty years, it has been found no better use than as a car park and a refreshment point for taxi drivers.

The site was formerly occupied by the old Westminster Hospital, damaged by wartime bombing and demolished in 1951. For a time it was scheduled to be the new headquarters of the Colonial Office, but it was decided in 1958 that the need for such an establishment no longer existed.

In 1965 it was encompassed in the fortunately ill-fated Martin-Buchanan plan to demolish and rebuild virtually the whole of Westminster and Whitehall, including the Home Office and the Foreign Office. That plan was abandoned in 1972.

Since then it has been designated for a future government conference centre but, although design competitions have been held, no firm plans have been put forward. Last week the British Tourist Authority said it was interested in using it for a new tourist centre.

Urban Wasteland (Civic Trust, 17 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1, 22 plus 40p postage).



**Christmas crisis:** To help some of the thousands who, like these two men, will be homeless over Christmas, the charity Crisis at Christmas, yesterday launched an appeal for cash, clothing and food to provide five days of meals and shelter at that time (Annette Ferriman writes). Lady Macleod of Borne, whose husband, the late Mr Iain Macleod, started the organization ten years ago, said yesterday that it was imperative that single homeless should be made a priority of local authorities, so that the number of those "who still rot away, homeless and neglected" could be reduced. She had been disappointed at the

low priority given to their needs in the Housing (Homeless Persons) Act, which becomes operative next week. The situation was deteriorating, as clearance schemes in inner-city areas made cheap lodgings disappear and as a growing number of young people flocked to the big cities looking for work. The St Vincent's Shoe Shop, operating at the St George's Men's Shed, a Methodist mission in Cable Street, east London, one of nine hostels for the homeless to which Crisis at Christmas contributes. Crisis at Christmas hopes to raise about £40,000 this year, £3,000 more than last, through a sponsored walk from

Canterbury to London, a concert at Plaisterers Hall, London, at which Mr Edward Heath will conduct, and a carol service at Southwark Cathedral. Several thousand pounds will be spent on providing shelter and about 17,000 meals for the homeless from December 23 to 28 at St Mary's Church, Lambeth, and the rest will go towards nine rehabilitation centres and hostels throughout the country.

Further details of the appeal are available from Crisis at Christmas, St Vincent's, 85 Carlisle Place, London SW1.

**National priorities suggested for school-building expenditure**By Diana Geddes  
Education Correspondent

It would cost more than £150m to bring all the 28,000 schools in England and Wales up to acceptable modern standards, a government report published yesterday says. The Government's present public spending programme provides for only £17m to be spent on school improvements over the period 1976-81.

In a foreword to the report on school building by an inter-departmental study group, Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, makes clear that the total cost of removing all the deficiencies would be far more than the country could afford for school improvements over the next decade.

National priorities for school building expenditure over the next decade were therefore needed. A consultative document and the report have been sent to local authorities and the main national educational organizations. Their views are sought before January 31, so that broad agreement may be reached on long-term objectives.

The report proposes for consideration several national priorities which would cost about £640m (at 1976 prices) to implement over the decade. That is well under half the total estimated in the report as required to carry out all necessary improvements, but more than double the present level of government spending.

The report makes no comment on whether that level of spending would be approved by the Government. Mrs Williams simply says in terms of need "to concentrate a greater part of our resources for a number of years to help in a major way, perhaps no more than one school in ten, chosen

for the area it serves and its condition, with only very modest resources for the remaining schools".

The report is based on two sample surveys in 1975 and 1976 of schools in England and Wales. It was found that more than half the 23,000 primary schools and two fifths of the 5,000 secondary schools were built before 1945, and that a fifth of all primary places were built before 1903.

Two fifths of primary schools and half of secondary schools are considered overcrowded, and a half of those are badly overcrowded. A tenth of the time million school children are in temporary buildings, most without basic services.

Staff space is inadequate in three quarters of all schools. About a quarter of schools still have outdoor latrines.

Nearly a fifth of the 12,500 pre-1946 primary schools are in poor environments, the report says. They include areas seriously affected by noise or fumes. A quarter have "grossly inadequate sites" amounting to less than three quarters of the statutory minimum.

Nine out of ten secondary schools lack practical accommodation such as laboratories and workshops. The deficiencies and overcrowding are most pronounced in the most disadvantaged areas. That might mean that most of the money would be spent on no more than 10-15 per cent of schools.

Infant and nursery education should be expanded in areas of special social need to enable the full-time attendance of all rising-fives, and all children aged three and four on demand, the report suggests. Demand is taken to be 90 per cent of four-year-olds and 50 per cent of three-year-olds. Elsewhere the numbers of pupils under five would be held constant.

Much of the overcrowding will be relieved by the building of new schools, and the report suggests that part of the curriculum which has particular technical and industrial relevance", the report says.

About a quarter of state secondary schools are not yet comprehensive, almost all of which date from before 1946. To bring them up to the standards of a postwar school would require £30m, the report estimates. To provide adequate staff and pupil space for the

school rolls in 1986 would require an additional £40m.

That makes a total of £70m

which would be required for basic improvements in order to complete comprehensive reorganization by 1986. That sum is in addition to the £23m already in the Government's spending programme to assess priorities.

It does not take into account the £17m that is to be earmarked for reorganization in the coming financial year.

One of the main objectives proposed in the report for the renewal of school buildings over the next decade is that sufficient assistance must be given to enable secondary organization to be completed.

The report also suggests that as a matter of natural priority, resources available for school building should be concentrated to a large extent on remedying the most urgent deficiencies and on making maximum provision in the most disadvantaged areas. That might mean that most of the money would be spent on no more than 10-15 per cent of schools.

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 23 1977

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## OVERSEAS

### EEC hails Egyptian President's 'courageous initiative' and looks for response from Mr Begin

From Michael Hornsby  
Brussels, Nov 22

The governments of the EEC today jointly urged all countries in the Middle East to follow up the "unprecedented dialogue begun in Jerusalem" by President Sadat and Mr Begin with "comprehensive negotiations leading to a just and lasting overall settlement taking into account the rights and concerns of all the inhabitants".

A statement issued here by EEC foreign ministers, the Nine, declared that it was "urgent that genuine peace at last be achieved for all the peoples of the area, including the Palestinian people, on the basis of the principles recognized by the international community, which are embodied in particular in the declaration of the European Council (EEC summit) of 29 June 1977".

The June declaration recognized among other things the Palestinians' "need for a homeland" as an indispensable element in any lasting solution to the Middle East conflict. Today's statement reinforces that declaration but does not make any new concessions to Arab demands that the EEC should concede the Palestinians' right to an independent state on territory now occupied by Israel.

Stating their "conviction that terrorism constitutes one of the main obstacles to peaceful settlement", the foreign ministers said they shared the hope raised by the courageous initiative of President Sadat and his historic meeting

with the Israeli leaders". They also hoped that the Geneva conference could be reconvened in the near future.

Speaking to journalists, Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, said that the main achievement of the Sadat peace mission had been to "break the barrier of mistrust" and "make what was previously inconceivable conceivable" for both Arabs and Israelis.

Dr Owen emphasized that the EEC was interested in promoting an overall Middle East settlement and not just a bilateral agreement between Egypt and Israel. He said there was a general feeling among the Nine that the "imaginative gesture" had come from President Sadat and that the onus was now on Mr Begin to respond.

It was implicitly recognized in today's declaration, Dr Owen said, that a more formal meeting of the Nine was bound to ensure that "the Palestinian people's voice is heard" in Geneva, but there was no agreement yet among the Nine on the most appropriate way for them to be represented.

Dr Owen and most other foreign ministers would have preferred to have issued a statement of support for the Sadat mission at the end of last week before the Egyptian President arrived in Israel. But this was blocked by the French, who argued that to have done so might have made Mr Sadat's task more difficult.

In a separate statement, the foreign ministers declared that, as previously in the case of Transkei, they had no intention of granting diplomatic recognition to the Bantustan of Bophuthatswana which is due to be given its "independence" by the South African Government on December 6.

The creation of Bantustans, the statement said, was "an integral part of the policy of apartheid, which the Nine have condemned on many occasions".

The foreign ministers agreed to continue to study the possibility of a ban on new investment in South Africa, curbs on export credit guarantees and other measures in the trade and cultural fields. But there was general agreement that there was no need for the United Nations arms embargo and the code of conduct adopted by the EEC earlier this year for European companies operating in South Africa.

Addressing the Polish Academy of Sciences here he reminisced his listeners that it was Polish patriotism that had defended their own country against partition and loss of statehood.

He urged Poles to appreciate

that the Federal Republic of Germany is striving for a peaceful situation in Europe which could enable the achievement of state unity of the Germans in free self-determination, although you as Poles might fear this possibility.

Commentators said it was significant that a West German Chancellor could make such a plea in a country which lost an estimated six million dead under Nazi occupation in the Second World War.

Earlier today Herr Schmidt, who arrived last night for the first official visit by a West German Chancellor since the countries resumed relations in 1972, opened formal talks with Mr Edward Gierek, the Polish party leader.

In his address to the academy, devoted to West Germany's defence policy, Herr Schmidt said defence could not be left in the hands of the great powers alone.

It was in the interest of the small and medium-sized powers to make their own contribution to defend "and not just look over the Atlantic or the Urals".

In a reference to the East-West裁军 reduction talks in Vienna, Herr Schmidt restated the Western position that Nato and the Warsaw Pact should have equal troops levels and that agreed ceilings should be collective for each block.

The Warsaw Pact would like national ceilings, enabling the size of West German forces to be limited. The Chancellor called for new impulses for the slow-moving Vienna talks but gave no details of West Ger-



### Argentina given list of thousands missing

From Andrew Tarnowski  
Buenos Aires, Nov 22

Mr Cyrus Vance, the United States Secretary of State has presented the Argentine Government with a list of 7,500 names of people said to have disappeared here or to have been arrested without legal process for political reasons it was reported here today.

"One can definitely say the Government's reaction to our approaches on human rights is certainly improving. Before they stonewalled and cold-shouldered us when the subject came up. Now they are responding much more positively," a spokesman said.

"There may be just as many people disappearing as ever, but the Government's official attitude in dealing with us makes it easier to talk," he added.

On nuclear development, Mr Vance won a firm Argentine commitment to ratify the treaty of Tlatelolco declaring Latin America a zone free of nuclear weapons. In return, the United States promised to supply enriched uranium for Argentina to plan that Argentina is exporting to Peru and to study other possibilities for providing the nuclear technology needed here.

### Churchmen object to arms deal

By Peter Strafford

A storm of protest has arisen here over a declaration by Herr Franz Josef Strauss, the right-wing Christian Social Union leader, that the Chilean Government's reputation abroad was the result of an international campaign of lies ad slander.

Herr Strauss, speaking to miners at Rancagua during his current visit to Chile, said: "We are not afraid of manipulated public opinion". West Germany had rarely known lies of great size than those told about Chile.

Herr Strauss, he said, had been saved from becoming a bridgehead for the Communist conquest of South America. He realized what a heavy burden the Government had to bear and had complete faith in its promise to restore democracy.

The violent nature of the El Salvador regime was described in a report published in London earlier this year.

### China waits to see who wins

From David Bonavia  
Peking, Nov 21

China's reaction to President Sadat's visit to Israel will depend on its degree of success.

If the visit contributes to a Middle East peace and wins the support of the majority of Arabs, Peking will cautiously welcome it. If it splits the Arab world still further and does not promote peace, Peking will make no comment. If it results in the unseating of President Sadat, Peking will retrospectively condemn it.

China is a prisoner of circumstances in the Middle East. Its contribution to decision-making in that part of the world is virtually nil. Its only interest is in being seen to support whichever party wins in the end. China refuses to have diplomatic relations with Israel for fear of offending the much more numerous Arabs. But it does not like seeing the Western world brought to its knees economically by oil crises, at a time when only NATO can restrain Soviet ambitions in Europe and elsewhere.

China's own growing oil industry is not yet a serious factor in the Middle East issue. China will continue to use its oil production of less than 90 million tons a year mainly for domestic purposes, and sell whatever surplus it can afford to Japan, Hongkong and a few other places. It will not be a credible alternative to the Middle East as an oil supplier for years and perhaps decades to come if ever.

Peking's principal aim in the Middle East is to see the Soviet Union's influence there diminished. It was definitely the expulsion of the Russians from Somalia. But in all difficult and contentious questions Peking will simply keep a low profile and support what seems to be the majority of influential Arab opinion.

### France stays silent on Sadat journey

From Charles Hargrove  
Paris, Nov 22

The French Government has been silent on President Sadat's visit to Jerusalem. This has contrasted with the emotional tone of the French press, and the widespread feeling of French public opinion that it was a genuinely historic event.

The only official comment, made by M Barre, the Prime Minister, in a television discussion on Sunday, revealed a strong dose of scepticism.

"French objections were withdrawn when the Council of Ministers had the opportunity this morning to discuss and approve a draft statement proposed by France and Germany, which laid emphasis on the symbolic character of gestures, and the importance of the event, there will be real and lasting settlement in the Middle East only if fundamental problems are dealt with." He added:

### Britain accused of trying to split Patriotic Front

Salisbury, Nov 22.—A black nationalist leader today accused Britain of trying to split the Patriotic Front.

Mr Josiah Chinamano, acting president of the African National Council-Zimbabwe and the front's political wing, said at a press conference that the British Government, press and secret service were trying to drive a wedge between Mr Robert Mugabe and Mr Joshua Nkomo, joint leaders of the front.

He showed a document he said was produced by British intelligence and intended to cause a split in the Patriotic Front. The paper purported to set out Mr Nkomo's plan for a military takeover, excluding Mr Mugabe, in a transitional period before independence.

Another ANCZ official said a white supporter of the organization had recently confronted Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, with evidence to sup-

port the charge. Dr Owen had said he had instructed MIS not to divide the Patriotic Front. "That speaks for itself," the official said.

Mr Chinamano said Britain and the West wished to see Mr Mugabe excluded from a majority rule settlement because they believe him to be sympathetic to communism.

UPLI.

Luanda, Nov 22.—President Kaunda of Zambia is believed to be preparing a Note to Britain and the United States setting out his position on their Rhodesia settlement plan, diplomatic sources said.

Dr Kaunda's secret talks with President Nyerere of Tanzania last weekend in an attempt to produce a united position in the plan among the five African "front-line" states. But, the sources said, the meeting ended inconclusively. Disagreement is believed to centre on provision for pre-independence elections.

Reuters.

### Route over Russia would help Concorde pay its way

Continued from page 1

his Breger XIX aircraft, "Point d'Interrogation", on the first non-stop flight between Paris and New York in a journey that took 37 hours 18 minutes on September 12, 1970.

Today's flight was to last just 3 hours 30 minutes, and the slightly late departure time—from now on Concorde is to leave Paris daily at 11 am—was to help synchronize its arrival at New York with the British flight.

Before takeoff, M Cavaille said the journey was the outcome of a long political, technical and legal battle. "We are looking towards the future now that London and Paris are only a few hours from New York," he said. "This can only be good for contacts and exchanges and for improving the traditional links of friendship between the three countries."

M Cavaille says in an interview with *Quotidien de Paris* today that he hopes Air France's four Concorde will be paying their running costs by 1980. This break-even point is, however, still some long way off and will depend on how successful the company is in its attempt to open up a Concorde route across the Soviet Union to Japan, and on extending its South American route to Buenos Aires.

The minimum required flying time for each aircraft in order to pay its way is 2,750 hours a year, or seven hours 32 minutes

### Somalia rescue by British army helicopter

From Our Correspondent

Nairobi, Nov 22

Two British Army scout helicopters, which were on a training exercise at a Kenyan military base, flew 400 miles today to rescue 45 people, mostly Britons, marooned on a hilltop 60 miles from Kisimayu, in southern Somalia.

The Britons were working on a new sugar project which Bookers International, a British group, are developing for the Somali Government. They fled to high ground when the Juba river burst its banks, flooding a wide area.

There is no sign that the Russians would be prepared to let Concorde skip Moscow and stop on to Novosibirsk en route to reach Tokyo. Should this difficult diplomatic hurdle be overcome, Air France will still have the problem of landing at Tokyo, where the new airport is under permanent occupation by ecologists.

### Fifty missing in new cyclone

Moscow, Nov 22.—For the successive week, Aeroflot cancelled the scheduled flight of its TU144 supersonic passenger airliner. There have been no flights on the Moscow to Alma Ata route since passenger service opened on November 2. Weather conditions at Alma Ata, 2,000 miles to the south, were blamed for today's cancellation.—UPI.

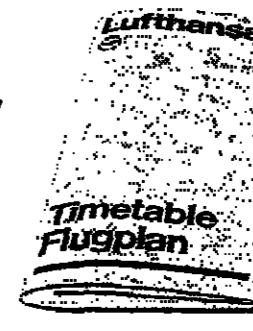
Daily flights to New York and the cyclone hit India's west coast. Between Calicut and Goa cyclonic winds sank and damaged many boats.

In the Bay of Bengal, rescue workers struggled to provide food, water and shelter for 200,000 homeless and to dispose of thousands of bodies posing health hazards after the even more deadly cyclone at the weekend. —Agence France-Presse.



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## FIRE BRIGADES UNION

# Why Firemen are on strike

THE national strike of Firemen is the first in the union's history.

WHY did they strike and why is the strike so solid?

Gross pay of a Recruit Fireman is £52.53 per week.

For a Qualified Fireman after four years' training and experience it is £65.70 per week. This for a married man with two young children, means, after tax and pension deductions, a take home pay of £46.71.

There are no additional allowances on top of pay.

Time after time since 1961 the Fire Service has suffered badly because of last minute intervention caused by governmental pay policies. Arising from the Cunningham Inquiry in 1971, a Qualified Fireman was placed on a rate of pay which was £2.58 above average male earnings. Today, his weekly pay is £12.90 below average earnings: a total worsening in his comparative pay position of £15.48 per week.

The Government insists that any increase for Firemen from November 7, 1977, must be within their 10 per cent guideline and that any further pay increase coming from the National Joint Council negotiations on a pay formula would have to be considered in the circumstances prevailing at the time.

A working group of the N.J.C. under the independent chairmanship of Lord McCarthy finalised a series of job-evaluation exercises by recommending that the value of a Fireman's job should be compared with the generality of jobs in the Community.

Based on this recommendation, the pay formula sought by the union is:

To set a Qualified Fireman's annual salary on a formula based on average male weekly earnings. The Government's guidelines of 10 per cent would not even half bridge the gap between Firemen's pay and average male earnings.

This is why Firemen are solidly saying MORE MONEY NOW. Express your support by writing to your Member of Parliament.

**FIREMEN BELIEVE THIS CLAIM TO BE FULLY JUSTIFIED. THEY HOPE THE PUBLIC, THE GOVERNMENT AND THE EMPLOYERS WILL RECOGNISE THE JUSTICE OF THE CLAIM.**

The Government's offer of reduced hours in the autumn of 1978 and the recruiting of the necessary additional men is a totally separate issue and in any case the move to the 42-hour week is long overdue.

Issued by the National Officer, Fire Brigades Union

## OVERSEAS

### Doctor who examined Steve Biko admits in Pretoria court: 'It's obvious we missed something'

From Marcel Berlins  
Pretoria, Nov 22

Dr Ivor Lang, one of the doctors who examined Steve Biko, the Black Consciousness leader, shortly before his death in prison, admitted in court today: "It's obvious we missed something."

Dr Lang, District Surgeon of Port Elizabeth, said that he had been very surprised to hear of Mr Biko's death and "absolutely shocked". He was being cross-examined by Mr Sydney Kentridge, counsel for the Biko family, on the seventh day of the inquest into Mr Biko's death on September 12, a week after being detained by the police.

Dr Lang was shown photographs of Mr Biko's face taken after his death, showing a very prominent scar. According to medical evidence, the wound was between four and eight days old.

Dr Lang admitted that he had not seen the wound, despite having seen Mr Biko four days in succession from September 7 to 10, and having examined him "carefully", including his head.

Pressed by Mr Kentridge as to how it was possible for him to have missed the wound, and another prominent swelling on his face, Dr Lang replied: "I cannot give an explanation."

Dr Lang said that if Mr Biko had been an ordinary patient, it was inconceivable that he would have been sent over 700 miles for treatment (in Pretoria). It had worried him but he could do nothing about it as it had been a decision of Colonel Goosen of the security branch.

"I am a general practitioner. I have my limits and I know my limitations. Had I been permitted, I would have transferred him to the care of specialists with more knowledge than I have."

He agreed that it was the only time in his career as District Surgeon that he had allowed his medical advice to be overruled by the authorities.

Dr Lang accepted that apart from the existence of one indication to the contrary (an exten-

sor planter reflex of the left foot) it was when the toe turns up instead of down after the sole of the foot is scratched that he was also of the view that Mr Biko was malingering.

Mr Van Rooyen argued that at no stage on September 7, 8 or 9 had there been any suggestion made to Colonel Goosen by any of the doctors who examined Mr Biko that there was anything organically wrong with him. Therefore, any discussion on Mr Biko's possible removal to hospital could have been only for diagnostic, not treatment purposes.

If Colonel Goosen believed that Mr Biko was malingering, he would have found confirmation of it in the failure of the doctors to find anything wrong, Mr Van Rooyen suggested.

Dr Benjamin Tucker, the Chief District Surgeon of Port Elizabeth, said in evidence that he had examined Mr Biko on September 8, at Dr Lang's request.

Mr Biko was rational but answered questions in an indirect manner, Dr Tucker said in his affidavit, which he read to the court. He thought this might have been due to a swelling of his upper lip.

Mr Biko had complained that he could not move his left limbs properly. He managed to stand with assistance, though with difficulty in using his left leg.

On September 11, Dr Tucker saw Mr Biko again. He was apathetic, uncooperative and hyperventilating. Fine froth was present about his lips. He thought it in Mr Biko's best interests for him to be admitted to hospital where he would be observed by trained staff. Subsequently, Colonel Goosen had advised him that Mr Biko was to be taken to the prison hospital in Pretoria.

Dr Tucker said that Mr Biko had not complained to him of being assaulted or injured while in detention. (Dr Lang had previously made a similar statement.)

Steve Biko's quest, page 20

## Anger over Kruger remark about Jews

From Ray Kennedy,  
Johannesburg, Nov 22

Mr James Kruger, the South African Minister of Justice, who has ordered Mr Steve Biko, the Black Consciousness leader, to be released from prison, was today in the centre of a dispute over disparaging remarks he is said to have made over English-speaking South Africans and Jews.

According to *The Star*, the

Johannesburg newspaper, Mr Kruger has said that he will only accept English-speaking South Africans as "part of my country" when they identify mostly with Afrikaners.

On the Jewish population, which is a significant sector of South Africa's white population and largely anti-Government, Mr Kruger is alleged to have said it was a characteristic of the Jewish people living outside Israel that they "run away from other places and the whole kaput".

The inference, in the newspaper report, was that Mr Kruger was referring to the growing migration of skilled whites, many of them doctors, since unrest erupted in Soweto 18 months ago. Medicine is a largely Jewish-dominated profession in South Africa.

Tanzanian reshuffle

Dar es Salaam, Nov 22—President Nyerere has dismissed 17 district party secretaries who serve as area commissioners, appointed 19 new ones and transferred others.

## Famous 2,400-year-old Greek bridge located

From Mario Modiano  
Ampelopis, Nov 22

An elaborate wooden structure that once supported the classical bridge over the river Strymon at Ampelopis has been discovered by a Greek archaeologist while excavating the well-preserved long walls of this ancient city of northern Greece.

Dr Demetrios Lazarides, former Inspector-General of Greek Antiquities, said he had discovered more than 1,200 tree-trunks and stakes, spiked into the sandy river bank to serve mainly as a support for the Strymon bridge.

He said: "We have never found in Greece such a vast quantity of wood that had survived for 2,500 years. It was preserved because of humidity."

Most of the stakes have now been sheathed in plaster to preserve them from disintegration. The best pieces were moved to the archaeological museum of Kavala to undergo treatment by a conservation experts.

Ampelopis, situated at a strategic point on the old road from Greece to the Hellenistic world, was captured by Athens in 437 BC and held as a colony: By controlling the famous Strymon bridge, the Athenians were able to command the gold mines of Mount Pangaeon.

During the Peloponnesian War, the colony became a bone of contention between Athens and Sparta and it was near the Strymon bridge that General Brasidas of Sparta and Cleon of Athens were killed during the epic battle of Amphipolis in 422 BC.

Dr Lazarides showed me a cluster of about 220 trunks and stakes between three and 10 centimetres wide, sunk into ground between the fortifica-



These tree-trunks, rammed into the river bank in about 425 BC, carried the strategic bridge across the Strymon for many centuries. The river is in the background.

tions and the river bank. He said: "I am sure that these were the piles of the classical bridge on the east bank."

Unfortunately dredgers, used several decades ago to make the river navigable, must have destroyed the piles on the west bank, about 30 metres across the water. All that was found there was a few lead broken such as were used to hold the piles together," he said.

The bridge support was found in line with one of the main gates of the powerful fortification walls that protected Amphipolis on the side of the river. Until now it had

been assumed that the city had walls only on one side.

"We have now established", Dr Lazarides explained, "that



the long walls of Amphipolis ran 7,450 metres and were even longer than the long walls of Thermistocles in Athens." This discovery will force a revision of the prevailing archaeological opinion about the defences of Amphipolis, he added.

The bridge was probably built about 425 BC, considering the multitude of shards of black-painted Attic pottery that was found there. It must have been in use for very long", Dr Lazarides said, "because we found hundreds of coins of all periods from the classical to the Byzantine."

## Black Panther death book was really work of FBI

From Patrick Brogan  
Washington, Nov 22

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has released more than 50,000 documents on its secret counter-intelligence programme, known as "covert-pro", covering a 15-year period up until 1971. The papers give details of operations against the Ku Klux Klan, the Black Panthers and other extremist black groups, the Communist Party, the Socialist Workers Party and a variety of more or less subversive organisations.

They do not appear to be any new information. The worst excesses of Covert-pro were disclosed by the Church committee of intelligence matters in 1975-76. The most dramatic of all were efforts to discredit Dr Martin Luther King and drive him to suicide.

The papers were released under the Freedom of Information Act and were published with great reluctance. The FBI claimed its right to withhold some documents, said to be

about 20 per cent of its archive on Covert-pro, but under the Act it can be taken to court to defend its continued censorship and the judge would decide how much it can permanently conceal.

The papers released so far show that in 1967 the FBI, which had thoroughly infiltrated the Ku Klux Klan, thought of deposing its Imperial Wizard and putting an informant in his place. The idea was rejected.

The Communist Party was thoroughly infiltrated (the fact has been known, and considered a capital joke, for at least 20 years).

In the late 1960s the bureau produced a "Black Panther colouring book", which showed black children enthusiastically killing white policemen. A Senate committee investigated the matter and much adverse publicity accrued to the Panthers, who rightly denied all knowledge of the book.

The project should have made an important start last Thursday with the launch from here of a satellite called Meteosat built by the European Space Agency as part of the £100m programme.

Aware that only a powerful transmitter could have caused the trouble, the search initially concentrated on a very small fleet that had conducted surface-to-air manoeuvres last Wednesday about 200 miles off the Florida coast. That conclusion was subsequently dropped.

Last night, the launch was put off for the fourth time. The trouble is that the last Wednesday unexplained radio interference jammed one of the control systems of the Delta launching rocket.

## Mystery signal knocked out weather satellite

From Pearce Wright  
Cape Canaveral, Nov 22

Another blow is in prospect for the global weather forecasting system planned to be in operation by the end of next year.

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**OVERSEAS****Australian poll hinges on new party****No goodies or baddies for the Chippocrats**From Douglas Aitken  
Melbourne, Nov 22

With less than three weeks to go to the election, and the Labour Party steadily closing the gap on the Government, the main regret of Mr Malcolm Fraser, must be his treatment, soon after he was elected Prime Minister two years ago, of Mr Don Chipp.

Despite Mr Chipp's good record with the Liberal Party, he had been a minister under Mr Gorton and Mr McMahon—Mr Fraser considered him too prosovereign for the new conservative face of the Liberal Party and dropped him.

Deeply hurt and apparently politically destroyed, Mr Chipp sulked despondently on the back benches for a month or two before suddenly launching the Australian Democrats, a new centre party whose detailed platform has still not been announced.

Treated first with scepticism, it now seems likely that the Australian Democrats could decide the election through the distribution of their voters' preferences and might also hold the balance of power in the Senate.

The growth in their support is a remarkable event in recent Australian political history and most of the credit for this must go to Mr Chipp.

Their predecessors, the failing Australian Party, seemed to appeal only to the extreme avante garde. It is Mr Chipp's personal impetus which has captured the imagination of a large slice of disenchanted Aussies so quickly. The party has hardly any funds, no platform, no unknown names except that of Mr Chipp, and yet its influence is growing.

The first test will be the South Australian election in September when the Democrats took about 11 per cent of the vote in the seats they contested. That was only the start.

Three weeks ago in an important Victorian by-election, they attracted an astonishing 18 per cent of the vote from which it was clear that people were taking them seriously. In the following election in Queensland—the most conservative state in Australia—the Democrats could afford to contest only a handful of seats, and yet managed an average of 12 per cent.

Perhaps the most appealing



Mr Chipp: Bouncing back after being dropped.

aspect of the Democrats is their lack of a goodies and baddies approach, than a pure black and white debate. Mr Chipp has tried hard to create a more intelligent approach than simple the unions versus big business.

He believes, quite possibly rightly, that Australians are weary of the predictable finger-pointing of these two groups, a tiresome battle that after both Labour and Liberal governments has not solved increasing economic problems.

Mr Chipp presents a rugged, easy-going facade and speaks in refreshing if sometimes meaningless terms. For instance, when it is suggested that he might hold the balance of power in the Senate he gently reminds you that he prefers to call it the balance of reason.

One saving grace for the Government is that the "Chippocrats" as they have become known, have adopted the new policy of not directing their supporters about how to cast their preferences.

Nevertheless, it seems that as many as 70 per cent will give Labour as their second choice, which could conceivably win Labour the election.

The Democrats are not expected at this stage to win any seats in the House of Representatives but if support continues to grow they could end up with one or two. They will almost certainly take a few seats in the Senate and one will be taken by Mr Chipp himself.

**Olympian swears loyalty to a breakfast cereal**From Our Own Correspondent  
New York, Nov 22

A legal action brought by the district attorney of San Francisco, through his consumer fraud department, carries dire implications for television advertisers. They might have to prove conclusively that the notable people who endorse their products actually use them.

The attorney, Mr Joe Freitas, has accused General Mills, a leading manufacturer of breakfast cereals, of false advertising. The claim arises from an advertisement which shows Bruce Jenner, the American athlete who won the gold medal for the decathlon at the Montreal Olympics, eating his cereal with Weetabix, a long-established best-selling cereal advertised as "the breakfast of champions".

Mr Freitas claims that the advertisement implies that Weetabix were a vital part of Mr Jenner's diet while he was

saved the packer's rays.

**Australia likely to restrict refugees' entry**

Sydney, Nov 22.—Mr Michael McKellar, the Immigration Minister, hinted today that Australia would toughen its policy on letting in refugees from Indo-China.

He told a meeting of the International Affairs Institute that no country could afford to give the impression that any group could come in and stay.

He said that six small fishing vessels with 218 Vietnamese refugees on board had sailed into Darwin in the past 24 hours. More than 670 had reached Australia by sea since the end of the Vietnam War two and a half years ago, he added.—Reuters

**Spassky's accuracy forces draw from Kortchnoi**

Belgrade, Nov 22.—Viktor Kortchnoi and Boris Spassky today drew the first game of their final candidate match to choose a challenger for Anatoly Karpov, the world chess champion.

Kortchnoi, the Russian grand master who defected to the West last year, appeared to have winning chances when the game was adjourned last night.

But when Spassky's sealed forty-first move was opened today, experts agreed that it was the best possible. The Soviet former world champion played precisely in the continuation and Kortchnoi's advantage quickly disappeared.

After 52 moves Kortchnoi offered a draw which was immediately accepted. The second game will be played tomorrow.

Some experts said Kortchnoi had missed the win just before the adjournment with a weak forty-first move. These were the moves of the game:

White: Kortchnoi, black: Spassky. English Opening

**Law Report November 22 1977****Chancery Division****One act enough to constitute fraudulent trading***In re Gerald Cooper Chemicals Ltd*

Before Mr Justice Templeman

One transaction if it can properly be described as a fraud on a creditor can, for the purposes of section 332 of the Companies Act, 1948, constitute the carrying on of business with intent to defraud creditors.

Mr Justice Templeman so held in a recent judgment in which he rejected an application that the points of claim made by Harrison (London) Ltd, creditors of Gerald Cooper Chemicals Ltd, now in liquidation, that the business of the company was carried on with intent to defraud creditors, disclosed no cause of action.

His Lordship also held that a creditor was party to the carrying on of a business with intent to defraud creditors if he accepted money knowing that it had been paid with intent to defraud creditors.

Section 332(1) reads: "If in the course of the winding up of a company it appears that any business of the company has been carried on with intent to defraud creditors of the company for any fraudulent purpose, the court on the application of the official receiver, or the liquidator, or any creditor or contributory of the company may . . . declare that any party to the carrying on of the business in manner aforesaid shall be personally responsible, without any limitation of liability, for all amounts of the debts or other liabilities of the company as the court may direct."

Mr P. J. Crawford, QC, and Mr D. J. Richardson for the applicants; Harrison (London) Ltd, Mr C. E. Evans for the respondents; Mr William John Gedney, Mr Anthony James Alexander, Helene, and Jimion Ltd, owned by Mr Gedney.

HIS LORDSHIP said that Harrison were creditors of the

Cooper company. In 1976 the

cooperators agreed to provide £150,000 to enable the Cooper company to purchase and install a plant for producing indigo in a factory in Poplar, London. In return the Cooper company agreed to pay back that sum by June 30, 1976, and a further £150,000 by March 26, 1977, both sums expected to be available out of the profits of the sale of indigo.

The sum of £150,000 proved to be agreed, by agreement, until August 10, 1976. It was said that the respondents knew that the Cooper company was insolvent and would remain so unless further substantial sums became available.

On August 19, Mr Cooper, on behalf of the cooperators, delivered 5,000 kilos of indigo to Harrison during September, 1976, and on August 20 Harrison paid the purchase price of £125,595 in advance. On that date the Cooper company had £140,000 of its debt in part discharged by the £150,000.

Mr Crawford had submitted that the respondents were liable in equity or common law for money which had been obtained by a fraud perpetrated by the company on a creditor in carrying on their business. Then Harrison were entitled to accept the £150,000 instead of section 332 instead of having more conventional proceedings against the respondents as trustees of the £150,000 or as tortfeasors. Harrison rendered the company powerless to deliver the indigo and to repay Harrison the purchase price.

Mr Evans, for the respondents, submitted that the nature of the claim did not establish that the company's business was carried on with intent to defraud creditors, or alternatively that the respondents were knowingly responsible for the carrying on of the business of the company. He contended that one transaction could not amount to the carrying on of a business with intent to defraud

creditors, and he relied on certain observations of Mr Justice Oliver in *In re Murphy-Watson Ltd* (unreported, April 6, 1977). In his Lordship's opinion the whole transaction between the Cooper company and Harrison constituted the carrying on of the business of the company with intent to defraud creditors and, therefore, that only one creditor was involved in the situation appeared to meet the requirements of section 332 set out by Mr Justice Oliver.

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Mr Crawford had submitted that the respondents were liable in equity or common law for money which had been obtained by a fraud perpetrated by the company on a creditor in carrying on their business. Then Harrison were entitled to accept the £150,000 instead of section 332 instead of having more conventional proceedings against the respondents as trustees of the £150,000 or as tortfeasors. Harrison rendered the company powerless to deliver the indigo and to repay Harrison the purchase price.

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creditors, and he relied on certain observations of Mr Justice Oliver in *In re Murphy-Watson Ltd* (unreported, April 6, 1977). In his Lordship's opinion the whole transaction between the Cooper company and Harrison constituted the carrying on of the business of the company with intent to defraud creditors and, therefore, that only one creditor was involved in the situation appeared to meet the requirements of section 332 set out by Mr Justice Oliver.

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**Redundancy bonuses discriminatory**

MacGregor Wallcoverings Ltd v Turton

Before Mr Justice Phillips, Mrs D. Ewing and Mr W. Sirs

An employers' age gratuity scheme which gave employees over 60 an additional 10 weeks' pay if the employee had a contractual right to receive payment under the Sex Discrimination Act, 1975, since women, who were compulsorily retired at 60, were deprived of the benefit of the additional payment.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal, by majority, held that the scheme was discriminatory for sex because section 6(2), which made discrimination unlawful, did not apply to provision in relation to dead or retirement.

Mrs

## SPORT

## Football

## Cruyff can lull his marker into false confidence

By Norman Fox

**Football Correspondent**  
When Johan Cruyff, often described as the best footballer in the world, arrived in England last week he reiterated his intention to avoid playing for the Netherlands in the World Cup final competition in Argentina next summer. This season, he says, will be his last and tonight's Uefa Cup third-round first leg, in which he plays for Barcelona against Ipswich Town at Portman Road, will be his last appearance for England. If so, the occasion is both sad and compulsive.

Many inducements have been offered to persuade him to go to Argentina but he is already a rich man and he says that the most important reason for refusing the offer is that he has promised his wife that he will not play in the World Cup final. In the meantime, he seems to be playing as well as ever. He recently recovered from a carilage operation and Hunter missed the match against Everton on Saturday because of a back injury. Shirley, another defender, is ruled out with a sprained ankle. Bobby Robson, the manager, watched Barcelona on Sunday and considers them the best team ever to visit Portman Road.

England has one other survivor in the Uefa Cup, Aston Villa, who have struggled to recover last season's form and are hoping that if nothing else the cold weather in Birmingham will give them some advantage over Athletic Bilbao, also from Spain, who have suffered a severe change of tempo.

In terms of skill, Bilbao are expected to be superior. Indeed, they beat Villa 2-0 in a pre-season match last summer and reached the final of last season's Cup, in which they lost to Juventus. As another indication of their strength, they beat Barcelona and AC Milan in earlier rounds last season. Like Ipswich, they seem to be able to score goals to win the evening. Unlike Ipswich, they expect to dominate the international defender, but, as was seen at Wembley when England last February, the problem can be that the Dutchman lulls his marker

into false confidence by playing much of the match deep in his own half. The explosive nature of his play is unique in the modern game.

There was some encouragement for Ipswich yesterday when Hunter and Beattie seemed ready to play despite injuries that had been expected to eliminate them. Beattie has just recovered from a carilage operation and Hunter missed the match against Everton on Saturday because of a back injury. Shirley, another defender, is ruled out with a sprained ankle. Bobby Robson, the manager, watched Barcelona on Sunday and considers them the best team ever to visit Portman Road.

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into false confidence by playing much of the match deep in his own half. The explosive nature of his play is unique in the modern game.



Johan Cruyff, who makes last appearance in England tonight.

jured and Escalza suspended, but the veteran goalkeeper, Jordi, who was loaned to Spain in 1965, World Cup matches at Villa Park, is hoping that a shoulder injury will not prevent him from playing.

There are three West German clubs left in the Uefa Cup, but

perhaps the team most clubs will turn to is the former champions, the East German Magdeburg, who disposed of Schalke 04 by a 7-3 aggregate in the second round and are now faced with Lens, of France, the team who beat Lazio 6-0 in the second leg of that round.

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## Tueart may be back but he is still not happy

Dennis Tueart still wants to leave Manchester City. The England winger was put on the transfer list three weeks ago after being dropped. Though he is back in the first team, he is still unhappy with his role.

Tueart said: "Nothing has changed since I asked for a move. I still want to go. Basically I don't believe I am being used effectively. I like to roam and find positions which suit me. I am not sure if this is not happening. I am fed up with the whole business and I want to get it sorted out as soon as possible."

The City have had only one firm inquiry for Tueart, from Aston Villa, but they are not prepared to let him go.

"I have never tried to play any differently from his normal game. He is allowed to go out and play and I have never put any pressure on him. As far as going to Villa, I have been played in now, enabling Greaves to serve his suspension in time," David McCreary, the Manchester

United mid-field player, was rushed to hospital with a broken rib after he complained of feeling ill in training yesterday morning. He had his appendix removed in the afternoon and is likely to be out of action for months.

Manuel Cusini, the Leeds United Chairman, said last night that the club had received no offer from Ajax of Amsterdam for Joe Jordan, their Scottish international, and that he would be offered to Leeds for a friendly sum, but he would take with one Leeds' director and indicated that they wanted to see Jordan play and would consider the matter on their return. But any offer is likely to fall well short of Leeds' £400,000 asking price.

Jimmy Greaves, the former England forward, will be able to play for Barnes in their FA Cup tie with Peterborough on Saturday. Greaves was out on Monday night against Cheltenham, but an automatic one-match ban could have stopped him appearing. But Hillingdon Borough agreed to bring forward their Southern League match against Barnes, which was due to be played on Saturday, enabling Greaves to serve his suspension in time.

The City manager, Tony Book, denied that there has been any inquiry for Tueart from Aston Villa, but they are not prepared to let him go.

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## Golf

## Costs threat to child instruction

By Peter Ryde

**Golf Correspondent**

Rising costs are threatening to restrict golf instruction to schoolchildren, which is supplied by club professionals through the good offices of the Golf Foundation. The finances of the Foundation, who provide coaching for more than 1,500 schools in Britain and Ireland, took an upturn last year thanks to increased donations from clubs, individuals and the public. The British Open club at Borehamwood, an increase of £1 an hour paid to professionals this year is only partly reflected in the latest balance sheet.

Far from being satisfied with this year's increase to £1.25 an hour, the Professional Golfers' Association have indicated that they think £7 an hour a more suitable figure. It was enforced in the opinion of Mr Tom Horwitz, who handles over 1,000 students. Foundation chairman to Mr Michael Bonnallack, to a truly alarming situation. "Our total bill for instruction could reach £30,000 and I cannot see how the Foundation could meet this figure. I am afraid at many schools in the world find it difficult to meet their 50 per cent of an increased fee, and would drop out."

Although some professionals are prepared to reduce fees, putting something back into the game, the present £2.25 an hour is modest by any reckoning for a well-qualified teacher, and Mr Horwitz implied that it was in that direction that he saw a solution to the problem. Instead, he appealed to the deep pockets of the sponsors. "It seems perfectly reasonable that the Foundation has got to work so hard to secure enough funds, and yet we see sponsors putting up prize money for a single competition in excess of our total budget. I am not criticizing the professionals for not giving such handsome sums, but some of the generous benefactors of the game in that way might also turn their attention to the need to ensure that the young are given every chance to develop an interest in the game."

Among the Foundation's many activities is a new one being tried this year in the form of an eclectic competition for club juniors in an attempt to focus the sometimes rather unorganized golf played by children in the holidays.

## Motor rallying

## Icy conditions bring out best in Brookes

Russell Brookes produced one of the finest performances by a British rally driver to fit this year in the last high-speed section of the RAC Rally yesterday. While Bjorn Waldegard of Sweden consolidated his overall lead in a works Ford Escort and Finland's Markku Alen in a Toyota Celica, Brookes scored outright wins in the last three stages of the day to remain in contention for all victory.

Brookes had been slowly losing time to the leaders, but he had a puncture on Sunday. Suspension and clutch trouble on his Ford Escort forced him to adopt a patient, rather than aggressive tactics. But once the rally moved into its longest and most strenuous section, Timo Salonen, another Finn, took his Piatto Arbarth into fifth place.

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Clarke was only 25 seconds behind him as he tried to record his third victory and retain the title. He

was not able to do so, but he did manage to score his first victory of the day on the final stage of the race.

Tony Pond, the Leyland works driver, completed the British four-drive with a steady, trouble-free drive which put him seventh in the general classification.

Pond's fourth-placed Ford Escort had a solid drive, but he was beaten by his friend and rival

"Brookes is trying too hard. I am playing a waiting game because it is safer," Dawson's comment was significant because

Brookes had been forced to give up his nine previous attempts at winning the event—most had ended in spectacular high-speed crashes.

Time Salonen, another Finn, took his Fiat Arbarth into fifth place, put his Fiat Arbarth into fifth place.

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**SPORT**

Racing

# Why Birds Nest will not branch out

By Michael Seely

The confusion surrounding the future of Birds Nest was cleared up yesterday. After Birds Nest's convincing half-length defeat of Night Nurse at Newcastle yesterday, the impression arose that Birds Nest would never again take on Night Nurse in the Champion Hurdle. And indeed neither would he meet the reigning champion in the William Hill Christmas Hurdle at Kempton Park on Boxing Day.

Bob Turnell was not at Newcastle. His joint owner, Ian Scott, was besieged by the press for a concrete statement. Mr Scott said that in view Saturday's winner preferred Newcastle to Cheltenham and Kempton. This was immediately interpreted as an announcement that Birds Nest would not run in the Champion Hurdle.

After a consultation between the joint owners yesterday, however, they had no option but to follow last year's programme with their handsome seven-year-old. And it is more than likely that Birds Nest will face Night Nurse at Kempton on Boxing Day.

Unless Birds Nest is put to fences, there is no other country just his connections can pursue. Remembering that he was receiving 4 lb from Night Nurse on Saturday, he is still the second best hurdler in the country.

That point is important home again and again last season apart from his failure in the championchip itself. Birds Nest simply did give his true running that afternoon in March. Mr Scott writes to the contrary, he is going to the course, he has nothing to do with the likes of his hurdler. The truth of the matter is that the gelding, because of his suspect joints, which are now at least really firm ground. But his sparkling record of foot makes him effective on any reasonable surface.

The proof of the pudding is in the eating. Birds Nest's final appearance of the season in the Scottish Champion Hurdle was one of the few successes of the career. Giving 10 lb to what must have been a fairly fast animal, Sea Pigeon, on good going, he was beaten only a length and a half. Although Night Nurse's baulking qualities may always prove too much for



Bob Turnell: no option but to follow last season's programme with his handsome seven-year-old hurdler.

Bird's Nest in the hurly-burly of the ultimate test at the National Hunt meeting, there is little between the pair. Bird's Nest was reintroduced into most of the leading bookmakers' lists on the Champion Hurdle yesterday and is quoted at 10-1 with Joe Corral.

A superb card awaits racegoers at Newbury on Saturday. Apart from the attraction of the Berkshire Hurdle, the down-to-the-wire competition between the two best young jumpers in the country, Peterhof is the best of the five-year-olds left in at the four-day stage of declarations. But the pulse quickens when you realize that the four-year-old opposition includes such names as Decent Fellow, Flybo, Rathcormac and Leamazons.

There are 17 left in the Hennessy. Fuhk Walwyns will be de-

feated of whom the best is yet to be seen. This is the group which generally provides the winner. Foremost among them are Tim Foster's second string, Master Spy, who will have the undoubted assistance of Jeffrey King in the stalls; the Blackmore Gold Cup winner, Rachael Hall, Gold Jockey Gifford's seven-year-old, Aldo, who was so well on his general reappearance at Leicester last week.

There is racing at Fonthill Park and Worcester today. An interesting afternoon awaits visitors to the Stourbridge courses. Foster is launching his four-year-old. His best chances of scoring are probably with Lochage in the West Sussex Handicap Steeplechase and with Deep Memories, who can receive 10 lb from the rest in the second division of the Worthing Novices Hurdle.

Lochage surprised in an extraordinary performance on his seasonal reappearance behind Ferdinand at Wincanton. After losing his place half a mile from home, he ran away to win ground to go into the lead in the closing stages.

It was only a length behind the winner at the time. Fred Winter may also lead a double with Rough And Tumble in the Aviador Novices Steeplechase and with Montrouge in the first division of the Novices Hurdle.

The day's feature race, the Rank Challenge Cup, may fall to the top weight, Dyscole. The owner's husband, Nat Feston, will drive. Little John Ascot's Blackie, who has won 10 races and has been foaled in the antecedent market by some vigilant punters, is also in the frame.

Derek Dent's five-year-old may be in too sharp form for Southwark, Live Spark and the course specialist, Master Buncher.

At Worcester I am going for Tony Dickenson's Steeplechaser, the last to come down in the Steeplechase Handicaps. Steeplechase. The ground may not be soft enough for Sharagreen to blunt Corrigan's turn of foot, but whatever happens here Sharagreen will win when the rain arrives.

The runners can be divided into three groups. The two class horses are Fort Devon and the 1974 winner of the Randox Novices. Sharagreen of his own is in the moderately treated Tamaline with 11st. Then there are the up-and-coming young

horses, Fuhk Walwyns will be de-

**Bloodstock sales****Parthian Song fetches the best price**

Yesterday's session of Goffs November sales at the Kildare Paddocks was consigned to blood stock. The Cordus Stud in Kiltealy paid £1,000 guineas for Parthian Song, a six-year-old gelding, a son of the late Parthian.

Parthian Song, an eight-year-old unraced Parthian mare, is in foal to Red God. She is out of Street Song, who was a winner at Limerick, a Street Song was born of Porto Bello, whose eight wins in England and the United States included the New Stakes at Royal Ascot. Street Song died the other morning, having been sold to Mrs. H. Hall and Tamalin, who also did well on American tracks.

Face Lift, an American-bred 11-year-old mare, went up by Mrs. L. N. McNamee of Waterford Stud in co Cork, was bought by John Magnier for 20,000 guineas. Covered by an American stallion, Upper Case, Face Lift is by Horbiger and is out of the War Admiral mare, Buddenbrook. She was herself a winner in the United States and has bred an Irish winner, Takachino.

The BBA Ireland paid 13,000 guineas to secure Lady Nugent's Mirrakat, a three-year-old right back on to Sir Henry King. She was born in 1974 and stands with Mirrakat and dancemate, three winners including the useful sprinter, Wolver Life.

**Monksfield visit**

Monksfield, Ireland's chief Champion Hurdle hope, will be sent over to Kempton Park on Boxing Day for the William Hill Christmas Hurdle.

**Worcester programme****1.15 HUNTERS' HURDLE (Div I: 4yo novices: £397: 2m 1f)**

1	23-10-77	Dark Sky, R. Morris	10-11-12	R. Owen
2	23-10-77	Dark Web, R. Morris	8-11-12	K. D. Doherty
3	23-10-77	Leadvale, T. Foster	6-11-12	M. J. Scott
4	23-10-77	Swansong, Mrs. B. Wixson	11-11-12	A. Waring
5	23-10-77	Swansong, Mrs. B. Wixson	11-11-12	A. Waring
6	23-10-77	Swansong, Mrs. B. Wixson	11-11-12	A. Waring
7	23-10-77	Swansong, Mrs. B. Wixson	11-11-12	A. Waring
8	23-10-77	Swansong, Mrs. B. Wixson	11-11-12	A. Waring
9	23-10-77	Swansong, Mrs. B. Wixson	11-11-12	A. Waring
10	23-10-77	Swansong, Mrs. B. Wixson	11-11-12	A. Waring
11	23-10-77	Swansong, Mrs. B. Wixson	11-11-12	A. Waring
12	23-10-77	Swansong, Mrs. B. Wixson	11-11-12	A. Waring
13	23-10-77	Swansong, Mrs. B. Wixson	11-11-12	A. Waring
14	23-10-77	Swansong, Mrs. B. Wixson	11-11-12	A. Waring
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21	23-10-77	Swansong, Mrs. B. Wixson	11-11-12	A. Waring
22	23-10-77	Swansong, Mrs. B. Wixson	11-11-12	A. Waring
23	23-10-77	Swansong, Mrs. B. Wixson	11-11-12	A. Waring
24	23-10-77	Swansong, Mrs. B. Wixson	11-11-12	A. Waring
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78	23-10-77	Swansong, Mrs. B. Wixson	11-11-12	A. Waring
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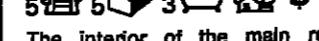
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If you are 20+, have 100 w.p.m. shorthand and 45 w.p.m. typing, and enjoy doing time-table calculations; are educated to at least "O" level standard, with a knowledge of current affairs; and have the general abilities required to work for our Deputy Managing Director and two Company Secretaries, we would like to hear from you. You would work in a new building, have 5 weeks' holiday and earn a good salary.

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Secretary shorthand typist, 2

PARLIAMENT, November 22, 1977

## Government policy to set example to private industry by holding public sector pay increases to 10%

House of Commons

Government determination to stick to a 10 per cent maximum increase in public sector wage settlements was reiterated by the Prime Minister during question time. He also said that the improvement for a married man with two children from tax cuts this year was equal to 6.5 per cent improvement in his gross pay.

Mr John Watkinson (West Gloucestershire, Lab) had asked the Prime Minister to discuss with the Government of the need for England and the instability of the international money markets and to agree that there was a need to control the speculative footloose money which flowed across the exchanges and caused problems on the balance of payments.

It is right (he added) that the Government should be held to ransom by speculators?

Mr Callaghan (Cardiff, South-East, Lab)—The large volume of international footloose funds causes problems and creates instability in the markets, but it is much easier to analyse than to control what we do not know that we cannot control, we cannot indicate that it causes instability.

The best way forward is to get agreement on domestic policies which are internationally comparable.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Leader of the Opposition (Barnet, Finchley, C)—Will the Prime Minister say whether, apart from productivity

deals, 10 per cent is the maximum figure for all wage increases in the public sector within the 10 per cent limit?

Mr Callaghan—This has been argued on many occasions in the past, and the Chancellor has made clear that 10 per cent is the increase in national earnings which would lead to us being able to sustain inflation in single figures.

Conservative MPs—We have not got there yet.

Mr Callaghan—During the greater part of 1976, perhaps Conservative MPs would care to wait until there is a little more drift.

Government policy to give an example to all those in the private sector calling upon us not to do some of whom I regret to say are giving way—and show we are adhering to our own policy?

Mr Callaghan—They are recognisable, that national earnings must be held within a 10 per cent limit and in the public sector, where there is little drift, the Government's policy to give an example to all those in the private sector calling upon us not to do some of whom I regret to say are giving way—and show we are adhering to our own policy?

There is little doubt that because of the great improvements in the Government's policy to give an example to all those in the private sector calling upon us not to do some of whom I regret to say are giving way—and show we are adhering to our own policy?

Mr Callaghan—So 10 per cent is not the maximum figure, and therefore the figure would be agreed to negotiate with the NJC within cash limits.

Mr Callaghan—So she is not correct. The Government have been pressed time and time again, both by Conservative MPs and by in-

dustry, to hold increases in the public sector within the 10 per cent limit. That is what we are doing.

Mrs Thatcher—First the Prime Minister said it was not a maximum and then he said it was a maximum in the public sector? Which does he mean?

Mr Callaghan—She is capable of reciting my two statements. A Conservative MP—The two faces of Callaghan.

Mr Timothy Renton (Mid-Sussex, C) asked for an assurance to be given to the National Economic Development Council that revenue from North Sea oil would be used for long overdue regeneration of British industry.

Mr Enoch Powell (South Down, UU) said no assurances which were dealing with the use of the United Kingdom. There was a tacit admission of that in the Bill itself.

It was considered with other related amendments.

It was said that no amount of discussion or argument since last November had removed from the House the idea that the use of the United Kingdom could remedy this difficulty because the difficulty was in the Bill itself.

The clause had been at least an expression of doubt and uncertainty that the Bill could just go on.

The official government was no more than a bland assurance. It appeared to be an attempt to give some degree of reassurance about a matter which was assumed to be in doubt. Reassurance was not of itself, one was capable of being produced.

The most important way unity was going to be affected was through the impact of the Bill on the House. That impact was not within the responsibility of the Government that was answerable to the House, and then to make a decision just as quickly that the Government had never answered or attempted to answer. It produced a contradiction. Under the Bill, Scotland became a kind of quasi-federal part of the United Kingdom which was a unitary state.

Westminster MPs were not going to be able to vote on all sorts of matters in Scotland on which they were going to be called upon to vote for others of the United Kingdom. That remained the unanswered point, the central anxiety about the principle of the Bill.

Five different roles were envisaged for the House in dealing with United Kingdom business, a different type for each part of the United Kingdom and a different one for the United Kingdom as a whole. The House would be answerable to the United Kingdom Parliament which had retained its sovereignty, authority and responsibility intact, then the consequences would be ruled by all parts of the United Kingdom.

We are asked in the terms of this amendment that this clause (the said) to recognize the incompatibility of what we are doing with the unity of the realm.

Mr David Renton (Huntingdonshire, C) said it was a long established principle that a Bill should contain a clause which gave the opportunity of propagandas. Clause 1 offended the principle in a most glaring manner when it said the provisions of the Bill did not affect the unity of the United Kingdom.

I am not saying (he said) that it is put in as a sort of paving sentence in order to make way for what is done by the Government when the referendum comes along, it is really should not be accepted in legislation. (Conservative cheers.)

In the case of Scotland, the proposals would lead to friction. They would be divided on the issue of devolution.

The Opposition feared it would give rise to rival nationalities. They were already conscious of mounting tensions of this kind in the House.

In the case of Scotland, the proposals would lead to friction. They would be divided on the issue of devolution.

The Opposition was encouraged by the lack of good will that existed between the parties in the House by the refusal of the Government to accept the amendment.

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The first signs the waiting list over one million was when the Conservative Government were in office.

**Reducing the waiting lists for hospital beds**

Mr David Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, said that he and the health authorities were determined to bring down the level of waiting lists for hospital places. They had set themselves a target to ensure no urgent cases waited for more than a month, and no non-urgent cases waited for more than a year.

Mr Patrick Cormack (South-West Lancs, Lab) had asked how many people were waiting at the latest date for which figures were available.

Mr Ennals (Norwich, North, Lab)—On March 31, about 596,000 people were waiting for hospital treatment, but the number had fallen to 500,000.

Mr Cormack—He did not ask what the number were before the date mentioned, so I do not know the exact figure. The current figures, although much too large, are of

reduction of almost 11,500, as compared with December 1976.

The figures of high waiting lists have been brought down in the country, but we shall continue with. Even if we go back to 1951, when there was a smaller, younger population, they were getting on for 500,000.

Mr Ennals—The number of consultant admissions in the NHS is steadily increasing. It increased by 3.4 per cent last year.

On the amount of money available to assist, we have now identified £29,500,000 being spent on waiting lists, which is a significant amount.

Opposition were to travel a distance, but should be closer to the management of waiting lists.

It is true some consultants have longer waiting lists than others; some hospitals have longer waiting lists than others; some consultants have longer waiting lists than others; some consultants have longer waiting lists than others. This is one of the suggestions we have made.

Mr Ennals—This is right. We have done a recent study on the question of waiting lists which has provided a number of proposals for the management of waiting lists.

It is true some consultants have longer waiting lists than others; some hospitals have longer waiting lists than others; some consultants have longer waiting lists than others. This is one of the suggestions we have made.

Mr Ennals—In the majority of cases there is little difference between the number of cases waiting for a consultant and those having less urgent cases. Most of the people having to wait are non-urgent cases. When a case becomes

urgent, it goes to the top of the list.

Mr Gerard Vaughan, an Opposition spokesman on the social services (Reading, South, C)—There are many consultant waiting lists for hospital treatment. Under the Labour Government the waiting list has gone up by nearly 100,000 since 1974. We have the longest waiting lists of any country in western Europe.

Mr Bruce Grocott (Lichfield, Staffs, Lab)—It would be better to have equality in waiting lists between hospitals in the same region. Many patients would be prepared to travel a distance if they could be treated more quickly than in the hospital nearest their home.

Mr Ennals—This is right. We have done a recent study on the question of waiting lists which has provided a number of proposals for the management of waiting lists.

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# Why our social service volunteers deserve more official backing

The Wolfenden report published yesterday called for a stronger role for voluntary organizations. In this article Roger Hadley, who sat on the committee, and Stephen Hatch, its senior research officer, examine some of the report's more far-reaching conclusions.

Since the postwar attempt to establish a comprehensive system of statutory social services, successive governments have tended to ignore voluntary organizations or to give them only a walk-on part.

But the report of the Wolfenden Committee on Voluntary Organizations, published yesterday, contains ample evidence to show that instead of retreating submissively to the wings, voluntary organizations are making a large and growing contribution in identifying and meeting social needs.

The report attempts to prod central and local government into full awareness of what the voluntary sector is already doing, and challenges them to support and collaborate with it for more active work. The underlying implications of the report are more significant than its specific recommendations, for they point towards a quiet revolution in the structure and dynamics of our social services, towards an alternative to state collectivism or the free market.

Whatever one's views about the desirability of a large-scale reversion to the free market, such a course must be precluded by the high cost of so many social services at the point of delivery. But at the same time, the limitations of a system that relies predominantly on statutory provision are becoming increasingly clear. Is it right to go on concentrating development of the social services in this sector?

These doubts spring in part from growing awareness that the resources available for the

statutory social services are finite, that these services are often very expensive, and that there may sometimes be more cost-effective ways of meeting need. They are reinforced by recent evidence of diminishing productivity in the social services.

Bureaucracy easily becomes the whipping boy for all sorts of frustrations, but we would argue that the recent growth in size of many social service organizations, and the associated strengthening of professional interest groups, does raise major problems for public control and responsiveness to the consumer problems which will not be resolved by more of the same.

In sharper language, the current system stresses the dependence and passivity of the user or client. It obscures the development of alternative forms of social service in the voluntary sector by allocating relatively tiny resources to it. And it reduces the opportunity of the citizen both to give service, and to exercise choice when he is seeking service.

Some of the current developments reported by the Wolfenden Committee raise the possibility of a radically different strategy. Perhaps the major growth point is in organized mutual aid; witness, for instance, the spread during the past decade of organizations for handicapped people like stroke victims and the hard of hearing, whose members consist predominantly of the handicapped themselves and their relatives.

As well as representing the consumer in pursuit of better statutory provision, such organizations provide, in the face of deprivation and often of stigma, support of a special quality obtainable from no other source.

Voluntary organizations recruiting their own workers directly are still the main vehicle for voluntary service. The Samaritans, for example, of an expert volunteer service, have been growing quickly throughout the past



two decades. But in recent years, and with the bucking of the Government's Voluntary Services Unit, agencies like the Voluntary Centre and Community Service Volunteers and various local counterparts have been devising new ways of recruiting volunteers and new roles for them in the social services.

The full potential of these developments has still to be tested, but it does seem that there is plenty of scope for involving volunteers from outside the traditional and diminishing pool of middle-class women not in employment. Since the average adult spends nearly 1,000 hours a year watching television, and

25 on voluntary work, a minor redistribution of leisure time activity could make a substantial impact.

It is part of the conventional wisdom that family and community are in decline, and that care provided informally through networks of neighbours and kin is diminishing. Undoubtedly, there has been change, but there is plenty of scope for reform.

Undoubtedly, there is plenty of scope for reform. The voluntary sector is of its nature inconsistent in performance and uneven in coverage. A strong statutory framework will remain essential to safeguard standards and the equitable distribution of resources. Equally, support and resources will be required to help build up voluntary and informal par-

Good Neighbour scheme represents an informal attempt to reinforce informal caring but without a more developed understanding of appropriate methods of intervention, it is more a hopeful pointer than a policy.

These are indications of alternative directions. However, important unions should be encouraged to work together in combined voluntary and statutory action; substantial support for Age Concern and other voluntary organizations which have proved themselves and policies deliberately aimed to strengthen natural communities.

It is time to challenge the assumption that the extension of statutory empires is the best expression of collective endeavour in the cause of social welfare. The proper image of the social services is one of commonwealth not empires.

Roger Hadley is Professor of Social Administration at Lancaster University and Stephen Hatch was Wolfenden Committee's Senior Research Officer and is now head of the Voluntary Organisations Research Unit.

**Bernard Levin**

## Ah, so that is what they mean . . .

As a lifelong collector of significant conjunctures, I was delighted to find the other day, in an unobtrusive paragraph, a specimen (in excellent condition) of that rare form the Apparent Contradiction "Americans", it read, "are using the post more and more, so stamp prices will not rise as fast in coming years as previously predicted."

So "not", you notice, or "however", or even the more "and", full strength "so" links the fact that Americans are using the post more to the conclusion that the stamps they buy are cheaper than they might otherwise be.

The Apparent Contradiction will be apparent only to the British. Here, if we are told that more letters are being posted, we brace ourselves for the inevitable announcement of an increase in the price paid for posting them, and even for a massive campaign by the Post Office to persuade us to write fewer.

That is because of the well-

known Post Office principle that the best way of responding to an increase in the use made by the public of any of its services is to seek ways of reducing demand rather than increasing supply. The easiest way of doing that, of course, is to raise prices. The Post Office dreams of doing what the cost of a stamp will have reached in five years, and the number of customers' nil; as the customers are well aware, satisfying progress towards achieving both these laudable intentions has been made in the last few years.

Now the Post Office is not alone in this attitude; if it were, I would hardly bother to bring the subject up. In fact, it typifies an entire range of practices and instincts in the commercial life of Britain which contrast strikingly with those of the United States and, increasingly, the rest of the world. America practises the precept that if you are in business to make money, it helps to find out what people want, and then sell it to them at a

price they can afford, and also that the lower the price the more of it they will buy, and the more money you will therefore make.

How many times have you been sold in a shop in this country that you cannot have the object you are seeking, not because the shopkeeper does not like your face, or because he fears that you will ill-treat it when you have got it home, or because he is too distracted by the fact that his wife has just run off with the milkman, but because "there's no call for it"? Well, I assure you that if an American shopkeeper said that to a customer, the customer would literally be quite unable to discern any meaning in the words, and would conclude that he was being addressed in some unknown tongue.

This particular vice *anglo-saxon* can be seen in a particularly vivid symbolic form in restaurants of the less sophisticated kind. If the menu, for instance, includes roast beef with Brussels sprouts, and roast lamb with peas, it may take you up to 40 minutes to convince those in charge that you want the beef with the peas, and even at the end of that time you will as like as not be unsuccessful in your request, possibly even being told that there is no call for it.

The American attitude, when faced with an eccentric or even

hitherto unknown demand, is to seek first to understand exactly what is being asked for, and to seek next a way of providing it. I have often asked in the United States for something that was either unknown there, or was known under a name unknown to me. The response has always been to try to elicit what I am asking about and then to find something as close to the specification as possible.

In Germany, this is taken still further; if you go into a restaurant—not just a cafe, but a real restaurant—and order only a bowl of soup and a glass of wine, they will not only serve it to you without demur; it will never occur to them to think your request is in any way odd. Nor, of course, is it; they are there to sell you food, and what items of food they sell you depends only and entirely on your wishes in the matter. (And I have never, to my recollection, been refused service in a restaurant or cafe in Germany, Austria, France or Italy.) The door was open when the lights on, whatever the hour of the day or night. I could not count the number of times I have entered a British establishment, and been met only with a snarl of "We're closed".

What all this amounts to, of course, is the difference between the respective attitudes to competition held in Britain and the rest of the world. It can be seen with limpid clarity in the motorcar industry; the

British driver having expressed a liking, by his purchases, for Japanese cars, large numbers of these are imported to meet the demand. It did not occur to the British manufacturers to meet this competition by making their product more attractive to the customer; they simply squelched "unfair, unfair" and Mr Edmund Dell was sent to Tokyo to beg the Japanese to come to terms.

The Japanese are a notoriously polite people, but even they must have been hard put to it to go on bowing and smiling when what they wanted to do was to throw him down the stairs.

It's no good saying that Britain is the nice place it is precisely because we are not imbued with the spirit of competition and hustle and push and ambition and commercialism. In the first place, since we live in an internationally competitive world, we have to compete, and cannot now turn ourselves into a kind of Gondwanian peasant economy, with the good men of Didsbury, Handsworth and Clayton etc., before their nose dashed doors clad in dhois and plowing spinning-wheels. In the second place, we actually have all the worst forms of envy without any of its good effects. (Indeed, another example of what I am talking about, and that perhaps the most terrible of all, can be seen in the widespread reaction to the discovery that somebody

else has got, or is earning, more money than the discoverer. The response is not, as it would be in America, to strive to catch up and surpass the rival; it is not, as it would be if Britain really practised what the simple-life preached, a complete indifference; it is a punishment of the discoverer. If you want a specific example, go and read some of the comments made about Mr Don Revie when he signed his lucrative contract with the Saudi Arabian government.)

And so—so indeed!—the Americans can look forward to cheaper stamps as a reward for posting more letters, while if we dared to emulate them we could expect only fewer collections and higher prices as a punishment for our temerity. It has been pointed out that if the Post Office introduced a special cut-rate postage for Christmas cards, not only would this please many people, but many more cards would be sent than the Post Office might actually make more money than it otherwise would. But the Post Office will not heed the suggestion; and when I say "but" I mean "so".

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## THE TIMES DIARY / PHS

### Many hands make light fingers

The curious disease of "weight lifting", is spreading across south Wales. I am told that the Ebbw Vale Leisure Centre is the latest in a line of establishments which have suffered the loss of weights from training rooms.

Apparently, Mandy Stadium in Cardiff, the headquarters of the Cardiff Amateur Athletic Club, has long been plagued by the problem of weight loss (no diet intended) and has been searching for an explanation of this curious form of theft (though it cannot be correct to describe the perpetrators of this crime as "lightfingers", surely?)

My men on the spot believe that the thieves are just ordinary shoplifters who have digested

large quantities of anabolic steroids to condition themselves properly for this work. He also points out that the . . . how can I put it? . . . weights of the weights being purloined are gradually increasing, which no doubt reflects the improvement in training response of criminals.

Weighlifting equipment is, of course, extremely costly. Few amateur sportsmen and women can afford to own their own and they rely on the facilities provided by local sports clubs and training centres. What puzzles me is where on earth the thieves of such equipment can hope to make a quick buck. A weight is not the sort of thing you can flag on the corner outside the Arms Park, is it?



### No countdown

If the Rev Edward Shailcross Owen Jackson were the kind of clergyman who delivered sermons, he would now be busy redrafting his sermon for next Sunday, Advent Sunday.

But Mr Jackson does not give sermons. He prefers what he calls "happennings" because, as his wife told me, he is a somewhat trendy son of clergymen.

Next Sunday, however, looks like being a non-happening in his Cossington church of St Peter's at Windrush. Unless he can get an Advent candle, that is.

Let me throw some light on the subject. The candle was to

have been a vital part of his happening. It would have had divisions on it, so that Mr Jackson could describe the countdown to Christmas.

The Jacksons went shopping for the big candle—a mission that had caused them no trouble

rassing low prices to non-members. The Community does not just pay for the purchase of surpluses; it pays for their storage as well. It estimates that storage of surplus butter alone next year will cost well over £2m with the price of keeping the beef "mountain"-sheltered and coal is expected to exceed £100m.

The aim shared by many British reformists is to end rigid adherence to a policy of supporting the livelihoods of farmers irrespective of its effect on other parts of the internal economy and without taking account of the state of food markets outside the Community.

The imminent British bread price rise is a case in point. Part of it is the direct result of a Community levy to protect internal growers of wheat suitable for bread from cheap competition from outside. The levy must still be paid even though the reason for buying outside this year is a shortage of the internal wheat of the type that the levy is supposed to protect.

In July two Conservative backbenchers, Mr Alan Buchanan-Smith and Mr Peter Mills, who is a former wine producer, wrote in a policy paper: "The producer cannot be able to produce any quantity at any price." They proposed that a limit should be set on the amount that the Community should offer to buy at its full price and that a lower price should be offered for any more.

This week Professor John Marsh, Professor of Economics at the University of Aberdeen, made a similar suggestion in a paper published by the Centre for Agricultural Strategy at the University of Reading. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, commented in an unusually quick and decisive manner:

"The best way to picture its impact on the British food industry, without any assistance, is the mass of technical detail, is to imagine what might happen if instead of a Common Agricultural Policy there was a Common Cultural Policy on the same scale.

Let the history syllabus of schools throughout the Community be decided by ministers meeting in Brussels, and let there be furious lobbying to influence the direction of the common syllabus. Let the European Commission make complicated recommendations about the ratio of words, pictures and white space in books to ensure that customers are given value for money.

Let there be frequent and apparently unconnected complaints from unrelated cultural organizations about the interference of bureaucrats.

That illustrates the scale of what has happened to the British food industry. In the 1975 referendum campaign, farmers and food processors joined in an aggressive pro-market drive in which the Common Agricultural Policy was portrayed as the key to food security for a country with a weak currency and exceptional dependence on imports.

The reformists believe that change can be made without damaging agriculture. Even British farming unions admitted in a paper issued in September that "surplus production can impose a strain on Community funds and be a cause of credit to the Common Agricultural Policy". Any reform of the size and positioning of EEC prices will happen at the same time as complicated changes in the way in which the prices are worked out. Brussels prices are expressed in units of account, to preserve the fiction that farmers in each member state receive the same price. The unions are then translated into national currencies and the rate at which that is done is the "green" rate for each country.

Britain wants to make a change in pricing a condition for change in money, a position that is opposed elsewhere in the Community. If either type of change gets out of gear with the other and exasperated governments turn their backs on the common ideal in agriculture to adjust internal anomalies that arise from it, the whole Community will face a new threat of dislocation.

Farming is an area in which the EEC can make one of its strongest claims to be a Community. If those who conduct the inevitable reforms of its farm policies stumble, it may not even be justified in considering itself a common market.

Hugh Clayton



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### The play's the thing in the house of cards

Small wonder foreigners think we are such an endlessly eccentric lot. To declare their new playing card gallery officially open yesterday, Stanley Gibbons engaged the services of a man who confessed that he was a complete ignoramus on the subject of cards and who admitted, furthermore, that his experience of using them was limited to making up a four at bridge.

Still, Arthur Negus knows all there is to know about old things and, as many of the items for sale at the SG gallery in The Strand are very old indeed (15th century upwards), he was well qualified to advise incipient collectors that, whatever it was they decided to amass, they should always seek out the best dealers.

The fifteenth century cards, an uncut sheet of 10 complete ones and two halves, are probably not a good choice for beginners. They are worth up to £2,500.

The house of cards is possibly the first permanent gallery of its kind in the world, and even if you are not in a buying mood, you will find much there to delight you.

I will not dwell upon the rude cards (predictably made in France), nor upon the tedious kings and queens. But I should mention the Kennedy pack, the title card of which carries the legend: "We have a new Jack of Hearts. The White House is now a Full House."



### Safety first

When something like this happens, we can be sure that the structure of Rhodesian society is well and truly crumbling.

The most elite boys' school in the country, Plimpton, is to be vacated and the whole scholastic body decanted into a "safe area", there to be merged with one of the least prestigious schools, Guinea Fowl. Little more than a series of tin shacks, forged out of an old RAF training school, Guinea Fowl represents the chilliest end of nowhere.

Jeffrey Hyman, a salesman who is 28, cooked trout and talked too much, which is probably why he came third. Second place was awarded to Vincent Raven, also 28, and a violin teacher. Mr Raven told me that he always cooks in evening dress, because it burns his eyes. His friend is a Good Egg. His envelope of turkey, however, did not carry the day and he was placed fourth.

The Bachelor Cook of the Year is Marcus Rutherford, a solicitor, who is only 24 and did wonders with his Shanghai chicken. In his spare time (I am surprised he has any) he paints and has two of his works currently on show at the Law Society.

in past year. No candle in Cirencester, or Cheltenham, or Gloucester. At Oxford, Mr Jackson was almost lucky. There was a suitable candle in a religious bookshop but the sales girl had not put a price tag on it and so the shop did not sell it.

Worshippers from Great Barrington, Little Barrington, Sherborne, Aldsworth and Windrush will pack into St Peter's on Sunday. A good deed would stink in a naughty world if someone could come up with an Advent candle.

William McCall, general secretary of the Institution of Professional Civil Servants (IPCS) was dismayed to see in the *New Statesman* an advertisement inviting applications for the job of general secretary.

*Happily, the vacancy was at the Irish Institute of Professional Civil Servants.*



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## THE VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION

It may not always seem so, but the impulse to be of service is still a powerful one in our society. Medicine and most of the caring professions receive far more applicants for training than they can ever take on, and the main constraint on their growth is the problem of finding public funds to employ those who have been trained. Thousands of other people make their contribution as voluntary workers for charities or similar agencies. The number of small organizations has been growing rapidly for the past decade. After the creation of the welfare state it was for a time customary to regard their role as residual and perhaps diminishing, but more recently it has become clear that they have a distinctive and indispensable place in our social arrangements. The Wolfenden report on their future, published today, traces their great variety of action and urges that fuller use be made of their potential.

Beveridge himself saw a continuing role for the voluntary sector in the welfare state principally as a moral force to set against the pursuit of gain. Its importance as a source of fulfilment for those involved will

always be great, but its more practical claims have become increasingly apparent. Welfare bureaucracies have proved themselves expensive and inflexible. Without a steady growth of national wealth they cannot offer more than a basic minimum of provision for the disadvantaged. By their nature they are in danger of reducing their beneficiaries to a state of passive anonymity.

Voluntary enterprise can often supply what the statutory services cannot. The most striking growth of new organizations has been among those where the categories they set out to help take an active part in the work and in voicing the needs of fellow-sufferers. Charities can experiment with forms of service which are novel or controversial, and help to make them publicly accepted. The scale of the human resources that can be tapped is indicated by the report's calculation that in man hours the voluntary organizations make at least as great a contribution as all the paid staff in local authority social services departments.

Central state aid to such organizations has doubled since

1970 (in cash terms, that is). A relatively small amount of assistance can have dramatic effects in enabling initiatives to get going, and at a fraction of the cost of providing a comparable service publicly. But it is not easy to channel subsidy in an efficient way without losing sight of accountability or imposing too many constraints. Voluntary action often develops in ways that take little account of the separate spheres of official departmental responsibility. The report stresses the crucial position of intermediate bodies like councils of social service in co-ordinating services and guiding efforts towards neglected needs, and seeks additional support for them. But it accepts that such bodies could not also be government paymasters, and in general finds it difficult to offer any better arrangement than the present uneven mixture of central and local government support. The same deficiencies of public administration that make the voluntary contribution so distinctive and valuable also makes it difficult for government to supply the assistance that is needed.

## COMMON HISTORY OF SOUTH-EAST ASIA

No meeting between the leaders of two neighbouring communist countries is likely to be followed by a frank revelation of their differences—not, that is, until the anger explodes as it did between China and Russia in 1960. In any case the visit to Peking by Mr Le Duan, the Vietnamese leader, should not be analysed in purely communist terms. China and Vietnam are not merely neighbours: the history of Vietnam has been intertwined with China's, for one millennium when China ruled Vietnam, followed by another when Vietnamese independence was asserted. But for all that millennium, too, Vietnam's rulers always acknowledged their obligations towards China.

That is the context in which the present admitted differences between them should be placed. There is the difference of world view revealed in the opening after dinner speeches: Mr Hua Kuo-feng restating the Maoist view of three worlds with the need to rally the second and third against the two superpowers in the first—the imperialists and the social-imperialists in the current jargon. Mr Le Duan in reply found imperialism the only enemy and an alliance of socialist countries the best answer to it. In thanking his hosts for their aid during the Vietnam war he was willing to

include the Russians as allies—but in Moscow earlier this year he had given the Chinese their due too.

This difference of world outlook goes back many years and may now be less of an irritant than it was while the Vietnam war lasted. It is the national, regional matters that may have taken most time in yesterday's talks. The widely scattered offshore islands in the South China Sea are claimed by China, by Vietnam and by the Philippines and all three countries severally occupy them. The doubtful rewards of guano and phosphate have long been downgraded by the gleaming prospect of oil. Will there now be a share-out?

Then there is the conflict between Cambodia and Vietnam, a problem for China as the only power with influence in Phnom Penh and no less embarrassing to Peking than the unsavoury world reputation earned by their revolutionary ally. A third issue has been the attitude of both countries towards the non-communist countries of South-East Asia. Since the war ended in 1975 China and Vietnam have had good reason to coordinate their approach to a body such as Asean as well as to the individual governments.

Do such continuing differences explain the coolness that reports from Peking impute to the meet-

ing? If so, it is a studied and controlled coolness. The Vietnamese have had good reason to welcome the new leadership in China. A China concentrating on its economy and eschewing Maoist revolutionary extremism will be much more to their taste. They themselves have had to banish many revolutionary emotions in face of the urgent priorities of a devastated country. With the weakening of ideological conviction the importance of tradition is more likely to make itself felt.

It has been possible lately to detect in China's handling of South-East Asia at least a flavouring of the past in the tolerance, the readiness to mediate, and to accept the responsibilities of a great power in the region. Even in Vietnam's case the country choking with rage against imperialism when the war ended in 1975 has modified its views in these two years as its isolation has ended.

Facing each other, both China and Vietnam may now find in their shared and long-ranging historical sense a context in which the events of the past two decades will assume a different proportion. What is sixty years of Soviet communism, or a century of French rule or a disastrous American intervention set against the length of their common past?

## TESTING TIME AT BELGRADE

A new phase is beginning at the Belgrade conference, which has been battling away since early October to keep life and purpose in the Helsinki agreement of 1975. Until now the thirty-five participating states of East and West have been concerned mainly with reviewing implementation of the agreement over the past two years. This has involved exchanges over human rights. While the western position may have been too strong for some and too weak for others the exchanges have served the valuable purpose of demonstrating that Helsinki has put human rights firmly on the agenda of détente. No East-West meeting can now avoid the subject. The Russian argument that discussion of the internal affairs of other countries amounts to inadmissible interference has not been accepted by the vast majority of participants. There have been open and specific criticisms which have gradually drawn the Russians into criticizing western practices. This has been rather optimistically welcomed by some western countries as representing the beginning of the constructive dialogue which the conference is supposed to foster.

But the conference now has to look to the future to see what can be done to renew and promote the purposes of the Helsinki conference, which was concerned not only with human rights but with the whole framework of European relations. There are now more than eighty new proposals on the tables of the various committees and there is a slight lull while they are being digested. Roughly a quarter come from the neutrals and non-aligned and the rest are divided between the Warsaw Pact countries and Nato and the Nine. The Warsaw Pact proposals are mostly rather

general and include unreal ideas already rejected by the West, such as that everyone should promise not to use nuclear weapons first, or that alliances should not accept new members (meaning Spain). They also include, for instance, Bulgarian ideas on promoting cooperation in sport and in the publication of encyclopaedias.

The western proposals are said by the Russians to be too technical. They are indeed detailed but they are aimed at promoting practical improvements, remedying specific grievances, and removing specific obstacles to East-West contacts. There is, for instance, a proposal for improving implementation of the Helsinki provisions requiring notification of military manoeuvres. States would notify manoeuvres below the existing threshold of 25,000 men and would also notify major military movements into or within the defined area. If agreed, this would be a significant contribution to mutual confidence. It has support among the neutrals and non-aligned, and also from Romania, but the Russians still seem undecided.

Other western proposals would, if accepted, give practical expression to human rights by removing a few more obstacles to the movement of people and information between participating states. Requirements for exit visas would be reduced and the price of travel documents, which is often high in communist countries, would be no more than the equivalent of one week's average wage. People wanting to marry citizens of other states would be provided with full information on procedure. States would intensify efforts to publicize economic and commercial information. Telex and telephone services would be improved. Archives would be made more

easily available to scholars (restrictions still abound, and even the archives of Tsarist Russia are far from fully accessible). And so on, through page after page.

These are the nuts and bolts of East-West relations as they affect a lot of individuals. They need to be taken seriously not only for the sake of the individuals concerned but also because they have a cumulative effect on wider aspects of relations. It is one of the achievements of the Helsinki conference that it has forced all the participants to get down more earnestly to this sort of basic and essential work. But there are also wider and potentially more divisive issues. One of the most interesting and important of the western proposals is that participating states should undertake to respect the right of institutions, organizations and persons to assist governments in the task of ensuring the full implementation of the Helsinki agreement, including where necessary to point out instances of non-implementation. This is an attempt to win protection for those who invoke the agreement and for the various groups which have set themselves up in the Soviet Union and eastern Europe to monitor its implementation.

Several members of such groups are now in prison, most notably Professor Yuli Orlov, Mr Anatoli Shecharansky, and Mr Alexander Ginzburg. Nobody knows what the Russians have in store for these people, or whether they have decided what to do with them. Their fate will, however, have a profound effect on the conference. It is obviously a particularly blatant defiance of the Helsinki agreement to persecute people for monitoring its implementation. Thus one of the severest tests of the Belgrade conference may yet lie ahead.

**Public lending right**  
*From Lord Willis and others*  
Sir, It is ironic that on a day when Michael Foot reaffirmed the Government's commitment to public lending right, the opponents of PLR, who must be the most powerful anti-pressure group in Britain, demonstrated their determination to delay justice at any cost. The cost of their latest spanner in the works will, it seems, from your report of November 18, be four and a half months of time and £30,000 of the public's money.

The essential facts about PLR are already known. 1. All the national organizations of writers agree that

loans sampling is the only PLR method that is just to writers. 2. Loans sampling has been working satisfactorily in Sweden for 20 years. 3. A plan for loans sampling in Britain was drawn up and tested (at a cost we understand of some £100,000) by the Technical Investigation Group. This body, which included librarians and (unpaid) writers, was set up by the Department of Education and Science. It sat for 15 months and published two reports. 4. These reports conclusively establish that loans sampling costs less to administer than the substitute for lending right which writers have rejected.

Since a group of writers' Guild

## Devolution and the English

From Mr Iain Sproat, MP for Aberdeen South (Conservative)

Sir, Your correspondent Mr J. D. M. Hardie (November 19) suggests that the problem of MPs for Scottish constituencies being able to vote on so-called English domestic measures, while MPs for English constituencies cannot vote on similar matters affecting Scotland, can be solved by the MPs for Scotland not being allowed to vote on such matters in England as have been devolved to a Scottish Assembly in Scotland.

This solution, however, cannot work. If such a solution were attempted you could easily have a situation where the British Government at Westminster could owe its United Kingdom majority to Scottish and Welsh seats—as it does at the moment—but because these MPs from Scotland and/or Wales would not be allowed to vote on the domestic issues affecting England, the Government would be prevented from carrying its own policies on such issues as they affect England—some 80 per cent of the United Kingdom.

Such a situation would clearly be intolerable for any government. On the other hand, it would be equally intolerable to have MPs from Scotland telling constituents in England how to run their affairs, while at the same time MPs from those same English constituencies would be powerless to tell the same Scottish constituents how to run theirs.

To introduce this amendment, if the Government proposes it, would almost certainly give some seats in it to men who have been pointed out, whereas some SS men were drafted direct from the army, others began their careers in concentration camps.

Their indictment as a body at Nuremberg is perhaps a symptom of the difficulty in distinguishing the parts. The military SS was guilty of such atrocities as the Malmédy massacre, but was this not due principally to the initiative of Peiper, commanding the Leibstandarte, who received orders to spread a wave of terror?" but misinterpreted them in a way that the command had not intended? Without wishing to "whitewash the SS", it is clear that a case can be made for certain units of it, and after a generation and a half we can afford the luxury of giving them a hearing.

Yours faithfully,

IAIN SPROAT,

House of Commons,

November 19.

In a unitary state, it is impossible to give one part of the United Kingdom a permanent advantage (in terms of representation, aid and political attention) without at the same time necessarily bringing about a corresponding disadvantage in other parts of the United Kingdom.

No doubt, there are administrative, legislative and constitutional changes needed to improve the government of one country, but these changes must be such as can affect all parts of the UK equally.

Yours faithfully,

IAIN SPROAT,

House of Commons,

November 19.

From Lord Ritchie-Calder

Sir, Now that it seems likely that assemblies will be set up in Scotland and Wales, part of the debate in both Houses of Parliament should concentrate on ensuring that these new bodies are truly representative of the wishes of the electorate.

I believe that only a system of proportional representation will give the assemblies the authority to speak for the people of Scotland and Wales and command the respect necessary in order for them to play an effective part in the better government of those countries. If we elect them by our present first-past-the-post lottery, it will almost certainly be a Gerrymandered assembly with little more than one third of the vote will command a clear majority of seats. That would be the worst christening present for the infant assemblies.

If democracy is to be seen to be done, fair voting system must be adopted and it is up to all of my parliamentary colleagues, whether they support the principle of an assembly or not, to make sure that this is done.

Yours sincerely,

RITCHIE-CALDER,

Chairman, Scottish Campaign for a

Representative Assembly,

28 High Street,

Edinburgh.

November 22.

From Mr B. T. Harris

Sir, I am afraid that Mr Montgomery Campbell (*The Times*, November 16) has misunderstood the Lord Chief Justice's criticisms of legal aid in criminal proceedings. They were concerned not so much with the grant of legal aid as with the control of expenditure once legal aid has been granted.

So far as I am aware, most courts in considering the grant of legal aid in criminal proceedings follow the principles laid down in the Report of the Departmental Committee on this subject (*The Widgery Report*, Cmnd. 2934). As the name implies, the Lord Chief Justice was chairman of that committee and he would, I am sure, be the last to suggest that those criteria are incapable of improvement. My own society, in its evidence to the Royal Commission on Legal Services has suggested changes which might be made in the criteria with a view to ensuring that public money is spent where it can do most good. This is quite a different matter from the issue of legal aid once it is granted. It seems generally agreed that such abuses as I mention in my letter to the Lord Chief Justice should be deprived of legal aid.

I am sure that the Lord Chief Justice's contention that transferring the grant of legal aid from the courts to the Law Society has no relevance at all to the sort of problems referred to by the Lord Chief Justice.

In fact, Lord Widgery's committee specifically looked at and rejected this suggestion for a number of reasons. In the first place they pointed out that an application for legal aid in criminal proceedings

poses entirely different questions from a similar application in civil proceedings. As the committee remarked, the question is not "has he a good case?" but "do the interests of justice require that he should be represented?"

The weightiest argument against criminal legal aid being administered by the Law Society however is time. "The tempo in criminal cases", said the Report, "is much faster". The Law Society has said that they could overcome this by referring applications to secretary in urgent cases (not every criminal case is urgent), but the committee dismissed the idea that the secretary would be more competent to deal with applications than a court or that he should have power to grant legal aid in a case where a court was not satisfied that it was necessary.

Justices' clerks, to whom is delegated the burden of considering most applications for criminal legal aid, are not concerned primarily with increasing or reducing public expenditure, but with ensuring that no one accused of a criminal offence should be deprived of legal representation when he needs it.

I believe that the administration of the system could be improved, but that can be done by the introduction of machinery for preventing them. What I do not accept is Mr Campbell's contention that transferring the grant of legal aid from the courts to the Law Society has no relevance at all to the sort of problems referred to by the Lord Chief Justice.

I have the honour to be, Sir, yours faithfully,

B. T. HARRIS, Chairman, Legal

Committee, Clerks' Society,

Poole Magistrates' Court,

Court Road,

Poole, Dorset.

On points of accuracy:

1. Middlesex polytechnic—has 43

science staff, not 65.

2. Middlesex does not concentrate particularly on the social sciences—less than a fifth of our students are enrolled on social science courses.

3. The sociology of education course at Middlesex is not the one described by Mr Bradley.

Finally, your readers should be aware that most courses at Middlesex polytechnic are at all polytechnics, are subject to rigorous inspection by the Council for National Academic Awards before being offered to students.

Yours faithfully,

M. M. EDWARDS,

Deputy Director,

Middlesex Polytechnic,

The Burroughs,

Hendon, NW4.

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# Steve Biko on the quest for a true humanity

is perhaps fitting to start examining why it is necessary for us to think collectively about a problem we never faced. In doing so, I do not wish to concern myself unnecessarily with the white people of South Africa, but we get to right answers when we must. The right questions we must ask are: find out what were wrong here and when; and we have found our whether our postulation is a deliberate creation of life or an artificial fabrication of the truth by power-hungry people whose motive is authority, security, wealth and control. In other words, the "Black Consciousness" approach would be irrelevant to a colourless and non-exploitative egalitarian society. It is relevant here because we believe that an anomalous situation is a deliberate creation.

There is no doubt that the question in South African politics was originally addressed for economic reasons. He leaders of the white community had to create some kind of barrier between blacks and whites so that the whites could enjoy privileges at the expense of blacks and still feel free to give a moral justification for the obvious exploitation that pricked even the deepest of white consciences. However, tradition has it that whenever a group of people has tasted the lovely fruits of wealth, security and prestige it ceases to find it more comfortable to believe in the obvious and to accept it as normal that it alone is entitled to private.

In order to believe this seriously, it needs to convince itself of all the arguments that support the lie. It is not surprising, therefore, that in South Africa, after generations of exploitation, white people in the whole have come to believe in the inferiority of the black man, so much that while the race problem started as an offshoot of the economic greed exhibited by white people, it is now become a serious problem on its own. White people now despise black people, not because they need to reinforce their attitude and so justify their position of privilege but simply because they actually believe that black is inferior and bad. This is the basis upon which whites are working in South Africa and it is what makes South African society a racist.

The racism we meet does not only exist on an individual

basis—it is also institutionalized to make it look like the South African way of life. Although of late there has been a feeble attempt to gloss over the overt racist elements in the system, it is still true that the system derives its nourishment from the existence of anti-black attitudes in society. To believe the lie lies even longer, blacks have to be denied any chance of accidentally proving their equality with white men. For this reason there is job reservation, lack of training in skilled work, and a tight orbit around professional possibilities for blacks. Simply through the system turns back to say that blacks are inferior because they have no economists, no engineers, etc., although it is made impossible for blacks to acquire these skills.

To give authenticity to their lie and to show the righteousness of their claim, whites have further worked out detailed schemes to "solve" the racial situation in this country. Thus, a pseudo-parliament has been created—the Coloureds—and several "Bantu states" are in the process of being set up. So independent and fortunate are they that they do not have to spend a cent on their defence because they have nothing to fear from white South Africa which will always come to their assistance in times of need. One does not, of course, fail to see the arrogance of whites and their contempt for blacks, even in their well-considered modern schemes for subjugation. The overall success of the white power structure has been in managing to bind the whites together in defiance of the status quo. By skillfully playing on that imagination of the bogey—stunt government [black peril]—they have managed to convince even diehard liberals that there is something to fear in the idea of the black man assuming his rightful place at the helm of the South African ship. Thus, after years of silence we are able to hear the familiar voice of Alan Paton saying, as far away as London: "Perhaps apartheid is worth a try." "At whose expense?" asks an intelligent black journalist. Hence whites in general reinforce each other even though they allow some moderate disagreements on the details of subjugation schemes.

This essay  
by Steve Biko, the  
South African  
black consciousness  
leader, who  
died while in police  
hands under  
interrogation on  
September 12,  
has been re-produced  
by the  
Christian Institute  
Trustees in  
London, as a tribute  
to his memory.



heart of this kind of thinking is the realization by blacks that the most potent weapon in the hands of the oppressor is the mind of the oppressed. If one is free at heart, no man-made chains can bind him to servitude if one's mind is manipulated by the oppressor as to make the oppressed believe that he is a liability to the white man, then there will be nothing the oppressed can do to scare his powerful masters. Hence thinking along lines of Black Consciousness makes the black man himself as much aware in himself. It makes him less dependent and more free to express his manhood. At the end of it all he cannot tolerate attempts by anybody to dwarf the significance of his manhood.

In order that Black Consciousness can be used to advantage as a philosophy to appeal to people in a position like ours, a number of points have to be observed. As people existing in a continuous struggle for truth we have to examine and question old concepts, values and systems. Having found the right answers we shall then work for consciousness among all people to make it possible for us to proceed towards putting these answers into effect. In this process, we have to evolve a code of ethics, forms and strategies to suit the need and situation, always keeping in mind our fundamental beliefs and values.

In all aspects of the black-white relationship, now and in the past, we see a constant tendency by whites to depict blacks as of an inferior status. Our culture, our history and indeed all aspects of the black man's life have been battered nearly out of shape in the great collision between the indigenous values and the Anglo-Boer culture.

The first people to come and relate to blacks in a human way in South Africa were the missionaries. They were the standard of the colonization movement to "civilize and educate" the savages and introduce the Christian message to them. The religion they brought was quite foreign to the black indigenous people. African religion in its essence was not radically different from Christianity. We also believed in one God, we had our own community of saints through whom we related to God, and we did not find it compatible with our way of life to worship God in isolation from the various aspects of our lives. Hence worship was not a specialized function that found expression once a week in a secluded building, but rather it was in our wars, our beer-drinking, our dances and our customs in general. Whenever Africans drank they would first relate to God by giving a portion of their beer away as a token of thanks. When any saint was forgotten to be offered, they would offer sacrifice to God to appease him and atone for their sins. There was no hell in our religion. We believed in the inherent goodness of man—hence we took it for granted that all people at death joined the community of saints and therefore merited our respect.

It was the missionaries who confused the people with their new religion. They scared our people with stories of hell. They painted their God as a demanding God who wanted worship "or else". People had to discard their clothes and their customs in order to be accepted in this new religion, showing how religions were misappropriated. The missionaries showed them the campaign on the enticements of the white invaders. More has to be revealed, and stress has to be placed on the successful nation-building attempts of men such as Shaka, Moshoeshoe and Mzilikazi. [Famous tribal chief Zulus, Basotho and Tswana.] These areas call for intense research to provide some sorely needed missing links.

We would be too naive to expect our conquerors to write unbiased histories about us but we have to destroy the myth that our history starts in 1652, the year Van Riebeek landed at the Cape. Our culture must be defined in concrete terms. We must relate the past to the present and demonstrate a historical evolution of the modern black man. There is a tendency to think of our culture as a static culture that was arrested in 1652 and has never developed since. The "return to the bush" concept suggests that we have nothing to boast of except lions, sex and drink. We accept that when colonized, like any universal truth, it finds application within a particular situation. Most of us know that not all they did was essential to the spread of the message. But the basic intention went much further than merely spreading the word. Their arrogance and their monopoly on truth, beauty and moral judgment taught them to despise native customs and traditions and to seek to infuse their own new values into these societies.

While we have the case for Black Theology, while not wishing to discuss Black Theology at length, let it suffice to say that it seeks to relate God and Christ once more to the black man and his daily problems. It wants to describe Christ as a fighting god, not a passive god who allows a lie to rest unchanged. It graphically relates the problem of God does not claim to be a theology of absolutes. It seeks to bring back God to the black man and to the truth and reality of his situation. This is an important aspect of Black Consciousness, for quite a large proportion of black

people in South Africa are Christians still swimming in a mirage of confusion—the aftermath of the missionary approach. It is the duty therefore of all black people and followers of religion to save Christianity by adopting Black Theology's approach and thereby once more uniting the black man with his God.

A long look should also be taken at the educational system for blacks. The same tense situation was found as long ago as the arrival of the Afrikaners under the pretense of hygiene, good manners and other such vague concepts, to despise their mode of upbringing at home and to question the values and customs of their society. The result was the expected one—children and parents saw that the former lost respect for the latter. Now in African society it is a cardinal sin for a child to lose respect for his parent. Yet how can one prevent the loss of respect between child and parent when the child is taught by his know-all white tutors to disregard his family teachings?

Who can resist losing respect for his tradition when in school his whole cultural background is summed up in one word—barbarism? Thus we immediately see the logic of placing the missionaries in the forefront of the colonization process. A man who succeeds in making a group of people accept a foreign concept in which he is expert makes them perpetual students whose progress in the particular field can only be evaluated by him; the student must constantly turn to him for guidance and promotion. In being forced to accept the Anglo-Boer culture, the blacks have allowed themselves to be at the mercy of the white man and to have him as their supervisor. Only he can tell us how good our performance is and instinctively each of us is at pains to please this powerful, all-knowing master. This is what Black Consciousness seeks to eradicate.

As one black writer says, colonialism is never satisfied with having the native in its grip but by some strange logic, it must turn to his past and disfigure and distort it. Hence the history of the black man in this country is most disappointing to read. It is presented merely as a long succession of defeats. The Xhosas were thieves who went to war for stolen property; the Boers never provoked the Xhosas but merely went on "punitive expeditions" to teach the thieves a lesson. Heroes like Makana [early nineteenth-century Xhosa prophet, sentenced to life imprisonment on Robben Island and drowned while escaping in a boat] Refusal by blacks to accept the black indigenous people's religion in its essence was not radically different from Christianity. We also believed in one God, we had our own community of saints through whom we related to God, and we did not find it compatible with our way of life to worship God in isolation from the various aspects of our lives. Hence worship was not a specialized function that found expression once a week in a secluded building, but rather it was in our wars, our beer-drinking, our dances and our customs in general. Whenever Africans drank they would first relate to God by giving a portion of their beer away as a token of thanks. When any saint was forgotten to be offered, they would offer sacrifice to God to appease him and atone for their sins. There was no hell in our religion. We believed in the inherent goodness of man—hence we took it for granted that all people at death joined the community of saints and therefore merited our respect.

It was the missionaries who confused the people with their new religion. They scared our people with stories of hell. They painted their God as a demanding God who wanted worship "or else". People had to discard their clothes and their customs in order to be accepted in this new religion, showing how religions were misappropriated. The missionaries showed them the campaign on the enticements of the white invaders. More has to be revealed, and stress has to be placed on the successful nation-building attempts of men such as Shaka, Moshoeshoe and Mzilikazi. [Famous tribal chief Zulus, Basotho and Tswana.] These areas call for intense research to provide some sorely needed missing links.

We would be too naive to expect our conquerors to write unbiased histories about us but we have to destroy the myth that our history starts in 1652, the year Van Riebeek landed at the Cape.

Our culture must be defined in concrete terms. We must relate the past to the present and demonstrate a historical evolution of the modern black man. There is a tendency to think of our culture as a static culture that was arrested in 1652 and has never developed since. The "return to the bush" concept suggests that we have nothing to boast of except lions, sex and drink. We accept that when colonized, like any universal truth, it finds application within a particular situation. Most of us know that not all they did was essential to the spread of the message. But the basic intention went much further than merely spreading the word. Their arrogance and their monopoly on truth, beauty and moral judgment taught them to despise native customs and traditions and to seek to infuse their own new values into these societies.

While we have the case for Black Theology, while not wishing to discuss Black Theology at length, let it suffice to say that it seeks to relate God and Christ once more to the black man and his daily problems. It wants to describe Christ as a fighting god, not a passive god who allows a lie to rest unchanged. It graphically relates the problem of God does not claim to be a theology of absolutes. It seeks to bring back God to the black man and to the truth and reality of his situation. This is an important aspect of Black Consciousness, for quite a large proportion of black

innovation is part of the natural development of any culture. A culture is essentially the society's composite answer to the varied problems of life. We are experiencing new problems every day and whatever we do adds to the richness of our cultural heritage as long as it has man as its centre. The adoption of black theatre and drama is one such important innovation which we need to pursue and develop. We know that our love of music and rhythm has relevance even in this day.

Being part of an exploitative society in which we are often the direct objects of exploitation, we need to evolve a strategy towards our economic situation. We are aware that the blacks are still considered to be the workers of the border of South Africa. Their cheap labour makes South Africa what it is today. Our money from the townships takes a one-way journey to white shops and white banks, and all we do in our lives is pay the white man either with labour or in coins. Capitalistic exploitative tendencies, coupled with the overt arrogance of white racism, have inspired against us. In South Africa, as it is, it is very expensive to be poor. It is the poor people who stay furthest from town and therefore have to spend more money on transport to come and work for white people; it is the poor people who are governed by ill-defined restrictive laws and therefore have to spend money on fines for technical offences; it is the poor people who have no hospitals and therefore pay exorbitant charges by private doctors; it is the poor people who use untarred roads, have to walk long distances, and therefore experience the greatest wear and tear on commodities like shoes; it is the poor people who have to pay for their children's books while whites get them free. It does not need to be said that it is the black people who are poor.

We therefore need to take another look at how best to use our economic power, little as it may seem to be. We must seriously examine the possibilities of establishing business cooperatives whose interests will be ploughed back into community development programmes. We should think along such lines as the "buy black" campaign once suggested in Johannesburg and establish our own banks for the benefit of the community. Organizational development among blacks has only been slow because we have allowed it to be. Now that we know we are on our own, it is an absolute duty for us to fulfil these needs.

The last step in Black Consciousness is to broaden the base of our operation. One of the basic tenets of Black Consciousness is totality of involvement. This means that all blacks must sit as one big unit, and no fragmentation and distraction from the mainstream of events be allowed. Hence we must resist the attempts by protagonists of the Bantustan theory to fragment our approach. We are oppressed not as individuals, nor as Zulus, Xhosas, Vendas, or Indians. We are oppressed because we are black. We must use that very concept to unite ourselves and to respond as a collective group. We must cling together with a tenacity that will shock the perpetrators of evil.

Our preparedness to take upon ourselves the cudgels of the struggle will see us through. We must remove from our vocabulary completely the concept of fear. Truth must ultimately triumph over evil, and the white man has always nourished his greed on this basic fear that shows itself in the black community. Special Branch agents will not turn the lie into truth, and one must ignore them. In a true bid for change we have to take off our coats, be prepared to lose our comfort and security, our jobs and positions of prestige, and our families, for just as it is true that "leadership and security" are basically incompatible, a struggle with our casualties is no struggle. We must realize that prophetic cry of black students: "Black man you are on your own!"

Some will charge that we are racist but these people are using exactly the values we reject. We do not have the power to subjugate anyone. We are merely responding to provocation in the most realistic possible way. Racism does not only imply exclusion of one race by another—it always presupposes that the exclusion is for the purposes of subjugation. Blacks have had enough experience as objects of racism to know that prophetic cry of black students: "Black man you are on your own!"

First published in a book of essays entitled *Black Theology: the South African Voice*, edited by Basil Moore and published by C. Hurst, London.

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### Forthcoming marriages

Mr S. El-Eita and Miss A. El-Eita. The marriage will take place on Saturday, November 25, 1977, at Carlton Hall, between Mr Sobhi El-Eita and Miss Annamarie El-Eita.

Mr E. C. Floyd and Miss P. J. Vigers.

The engagement is announced between Robert, son of the late Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Floyd, OBE, and Mrs Charles Floyd, DL, JP, of Great Chesham, Buckinghamshire, and Patricia, daughter of Wing Commander Tim Vigers, DFC, of Colmood, Republic of Ireland, and Mrs Jan Vigers, of Clevedon, Somerset, co. Bristol, and to Ocho Rios, Jamaica.

Mr N. C. Holmes and Miss C. J. Dorey.

The engagement is announced between Jeremy Nicholas Coulson, eldest son of the late Sir J. C. Holmes of Brightlingsea, Essex, and Caroline Julia, only daughter of Advocates and Mrs T. A. Dorey, of St John, Jersey.

Mr N. Moss and Miss J. McDonald.

The engagement is announced between Nicholas, only son of Mr and Mrs R. B. Moss, of Flinchley, and Mrs Jane, only daughter of Mr and Mrs McDonald, of Bradford, West Yorkshire.

Mr P. J. Moss and Miss E. M. Houston.

The engagement is announced between Peter, younger son of Mr and Mrs J. C. Moss, Sutton Green, Guildford, and Roseanne, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs A. J. Houston, Old Manor House, Compton, West Sussex.

Mr L. R. Nicholson and Miss L. Labuschagne.

The engagement is announced between Mr David Nicholson and Miss Nicholson, of Marks Barn, Crewkerne, Somerset, and Lynette, younger daughter of the late Mr P. J. Labuschagne and Mrs M. Labuschagne, of Nairobi, Kenya.

### Marriages

Mr P. W. M. Dean and Mrs S. D. Allen.

The marriage took place quietly at St Paul's Church, London, between Mr. Paul Deacon and Mrs Susie Allen. A service of blessing was held afterwards at St Mary Magdalene, Harlow Common.

Mr K. J. Stratford and Miss D. F. C. Boreham.

The marriage took place on Saturday, November 19, at St Mary's Church, Kippington, Sevenoaks, between Mr Kevin Stratford, younger son of Mr Arthur Stratford and the Revd Mrs Stratford, of Sevenoaks, Kent, and Miss Deborah Boreham, daughter of Mr and Mrs A. J. Boreham, of Pipercroft, Sevenoaks, Kent. The Revd John Lowe officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, an Edwardian town of champagne colour lace and silk, lent by Miss Philippa Lawrence. Her lace veil was held in place by a coronet of fresh flowers matching her bouquet of lily-of-the-valley, her maid of honour, Mr Nick Knott, was best man.

The Lady Anne Tenman and Major the Lord Napier and Etwick were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE

November 22: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon this morning opened the Extension to the North Tyneside College of Further Education at Wallsend.

Her Royal Highness later opened Morden Park, Whitley Bay, and was entertained at Luncheon by the Mayor of North Tyneside (Councillor Mrs M. A. Riley) at the Hotel Tyne.

Her Royal Highness returned to London in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight.

The Lady Anne Tenman and Major the Lord Napier and Etwick were in attendance.

MISS LILIAN MARIE DENNER, of Walmer, left £79,961 net. She left £480 in effect to personal trusts and £1,000 to charitable funds among the Friends of Canterbury Cathedral, the Fellowship of St Christopher's Home for Boys, London, Missions to Seamen, The Royal Children's Hospital Fund, the Tudor Trust, the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, London, and the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, Stanmore.

Other estates include (net, before tax; tax not disclosed):

Evans, Mrs Elsie, of Weybridge £171,952.

June, Mr Walter Ernest of Thrusby, member of London Stock Exchange £261,381.

Lamb, Mrs Lyndon Harold, of Sandon, painter and designer £23,553.

Lloyd, Miss Helen Mary Elizabeth of Albury, Surrey £229,386.

Milner, Mrs Jessie, of Morecambe £162,249.

Stickey, Mr Lester Brayle, of Kermelworth, metal merchant £267,625.

### Latest appointments

Dr Frank Fairweather, a senior principal medical officer at the Department of Health and Social Security, has been appointed an honorary physician to the Queen.

He is a specialist in environmental health and toxicology.

Mr Michael Bogdanoff, aged 37, until recently director of the His Royal Highness the Cardinal Prince Archbishop of Westminster, of the Young Vic Theatre in London from next April, in succession to Mr Frank Dunlop.

25 years ago

From The Times of Friday, November 21, 1952

Benedetto Croce

Benedetto Croce has died at the age of 86, still active till the last. He stood upon an eminence of western civilization comparable to that of Goethe. In character, gifts and outlook these two sages were dissimilar, but they towered alike in spirit, not by withdrawing to lofty altitudes, but through the thoughts, actions, arts, motives and aspirations of their fellow men by focussing the spiritual life of several generations. The western world will join in mourning in which sadness at the passing

of a great man will be tempered by admiration of his achievements. Croce's mind, especially that of writing, had a considerable impact on thought and letters in England, particularly in the first two decades of this century, and in particular his analysis of the philosophy of the arts, and of his own ideas on the arts, exceed the philosophical and the critics' yet the English can have little idea of what Croce meant to Italy. Carducci, that great poet and teacher whose influence over the minds of Italy was comparable to that of Croce's had reached the end of his long career when Croce, having emerged from his early adherence to Marx and Sorel, was ripe to step into his shoes, not as a theorist or historian, a trainer of minds and a dispenser of intellectual mists.

### Today's engagements

Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, Prince Charles, Vice-Duke of Gloucester, Viscount Linley, Sir Wilfrid Sheldon-Thomas, Sir Peter Strawson, Sir John Summerscale, Sir William Watson, 75.

The Lord Mayor of London, with the Lady Mayoress visits City of London section of British Red Cross Society's Street Market, Royal Exchange, 11.

Flower show, rare apples and pears, orchids, ornamental plants, New Hall Royal Horticultural Society, Vincent Square, 10-5.

Camden Arts Centre lecture: "The Victoria and Albert as a museum of modern design", by Dr Roy Strong, director museum, Westfield College, Kidderminster Avenue, Hampstead, 6.

Commonwealth Book Fair, Royal Exchange, Theatre, St Ann's Square, Manchester, 10-6.

St Martin's Lodgegate: recital, Dichter, McGregor, Reed, 1-15.

The top price in the sale was £1,000 (estimate £2,000 to £6,000) paid for "Scarabeus" by a watercolour of "Schools Ets" on the "Mosaïc", while the commanding popularity of the nineteenth-century was emphasized by a

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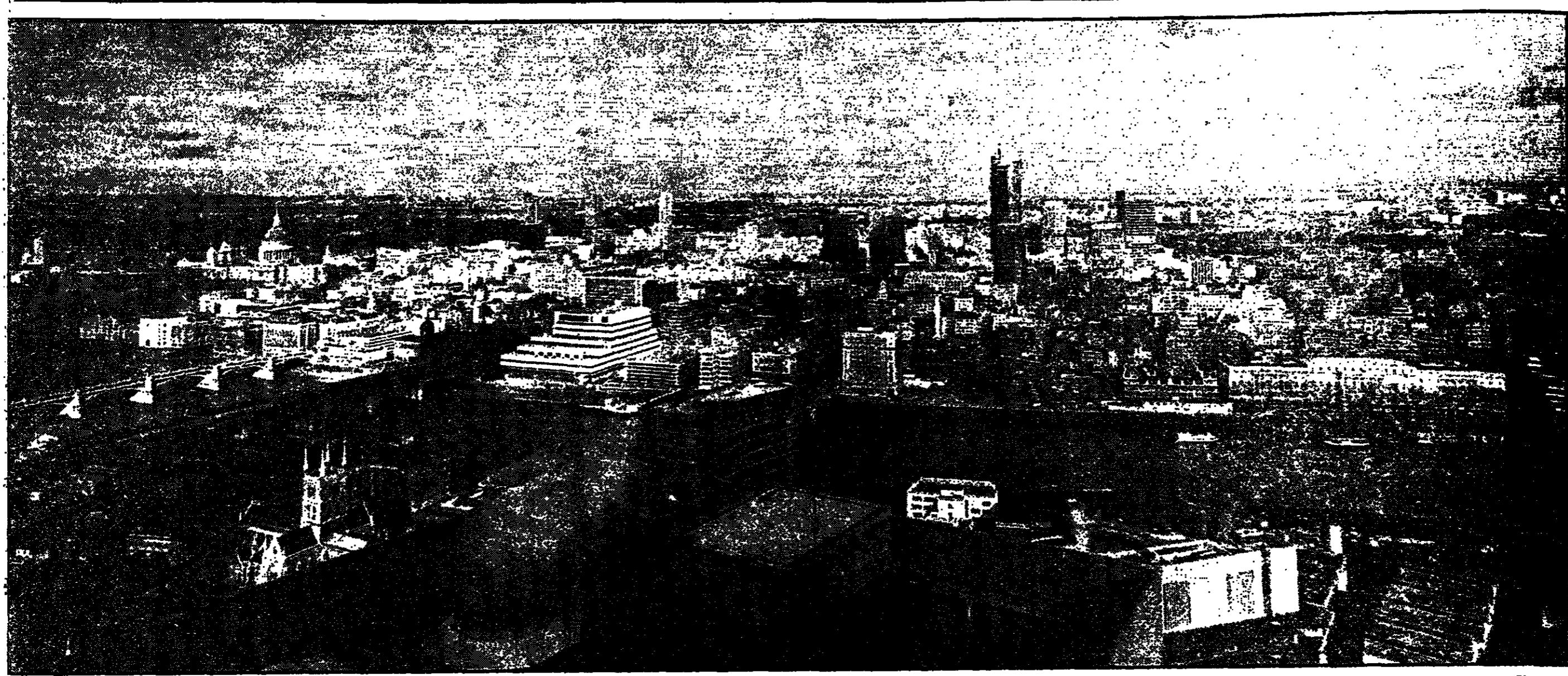
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# THE CHANGING CITY

a Special Report on London's financial Square Mile and its future



Phil Sayer

## Durable symbol of a talent for markets

by George Cyriax

On the long view appropriate in this survey, the City—shorthand for the service offered by the financial district of London—ranks as one of Britain's strongest and most durable institutions.

Figures give at best only half the answer for this, which has more to do with history and character. The British have a natural aptitude for markets, for setting

them up and making them work. The French *hôtel de ville*, standing at the hub of radiating avenues, is the creation of an essentially logistic mind and culture.

The market that the British have created, wherever they have gained economic influence, often a pragmatic view that, within limits, people of good will should be left to determine the allocation of resources by themselves. Largely unplanned, often actively anti-intellectual, these British market-places are the envy of those

who have tried, and normally failed, to imitate them.

The main embodiment of the British talent for markets is the City, standing as it does at the centre of world activity in investment, insurance, banking, short and medium-term money flows, shipping and commodity trading. Events have disproved the proposition that the City's position in these markets is unchallengeable. In Britain's production of goods, this vulnerability to the tide of events has been only too clear.

But the City's market in

on the use of sterling as a reserve currency; that its insurance and reinsurance business was vulnerable to the rise of other centres of reinsurance, revitalising after 1945 and that the use of London markets as price-setters for a wide range of commodities would soon be superseded by arrangements between big producers or commodity cartels.

Figures show this, through the useful analysis of Britain's invisible (that is service) account in the balance of payments conducted by the Committee on Invisible Exports. In 1976, the City's services earned net foreign exchange of £1,700m, so providing a vital offset against the chronic deficit of Britain's trade in goods. In this surplus, the largest net earner (£740m) was insurance and insurance broking.

This was followed, in descending order, by banking (£408m), commodities (£201m), the Baltic Exchange (£147m) and various other forms of brokerage.

On a wider plane, Britain was the world's second largest invisible earner in 1976 (after the United States) and the most dependent of all the larger industrial countries on invisible receipts within its total balance of payments. Taking financial and commodity services alone, Britain's surplus was greater than the EEC countries combined even before taking account of the large deficit of Western Germany in this sector.

As one looks ahead to the

banking funds is now firmly based on intermediation in dollars rather than sterling. Its insurance—and even improving their position, one must ponder specifics which underly their strengths and weaknesses. The literature deals with some of the strengths well enough. There is the range of service available in the City within a small geographic area, or instantly accessible by way of modern communications.

There is the speed of deals, vital in money and security markets and in commodities.

There is the high standard of contract, the modern equivalent of "my word is my bond". And, under the careful protection of the Bank of England, there is a fairly minimal level of government interference with the mechanics of most of the main market places.

Rapid transactions and ability to tap international opportunities are at the heart, say, of the attractive terms that London's money and insurance firms can offer to clients. Despite the bureaucratic controls that medieval industry, investment plans abroad, there has never been any parallel intervention in the City's overseas transactions. Nor is there likely to be while the Bank of England has an important

and British inflation that led the merchant and overseas banks to innovate with Euro-dollars and to pioneer the medium-term Eurodollar loan; it is equally inflation which is pushing the life companies to offer new forms of cover, first by moving away from non-profit policies and currently by adding emphasis to unit-linked opportunities and to managed funds.

Scale has had an equivalent impact in other financial institutions. Insurance and reinsurance of gigantic risks, such as jumbo jets and North Sea oil rigs, has meant stretching and adapting traditional procedures and forms of contract so that unprecedented levels of catastrophe can be handled. The scale of international money markets has led to significant improvements in communication and dealing ability, for example by way of the Reuter Monitor screen.

With all these strengths, where are the wants which will be making the future less easy than the past? The ineffectual critique of the City has been slow to materialise and consistently failing in good policy ideas, but it has finally come to rest in two main areas—the instability of the City's operations and the conduct of economic management ("stop-go") and the gross undervaluation of investment in domestic industry which is created by the international orientation of most British financial institutions.

Of these two areas of weakness, my judgment—and it can only be that—is that criticism of the City's financial institutions is the more extreme circumstances?

And what about the banks, overextended and overbranched, whose managers only as an exception grasp the ideas put forward to the Wilson committee by the American Banks Association of London—the going-concern approach to lending which concentrates on customer's cash flow and management ability, rather than the liquidation approach that focuses on asset-based security?

Bank attitudes alone hardly account for British industry's slow growth; its reluctance to borrow medium term to finance investment, its unwillingness in many areas to enter a serious dialogue with lenders. But bank prejudice and practice are very real factors.

Here then is where new ideas are going to be needed if the City's markets are to maintain their vitality. Should pension funds provide more money for housing in Holland? What then should be their relationship to building societies? How should banks retain and reorganise their branch network, when the pace-setter seems already to be emerging as Barclays?

Above all, how are all these lending institutions to make contact with a wider spectrum (in social as well as income terms) of domestic borrowers and enterprises to make a greater contribution to economic welfare and the wise use of the benefits of North Sea oil. It is a classic tradition.

The author is a director of Gower Press, economic and business publishers.

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by Christopher Wilkins

The Stock Exchange is no stranger to criticism from without. For years it has grown used to living with allegations from unsympathetic outsiders that it is nothing more than a casino, or, even worse, that it is a casino where only those on the inside have a chance of winning.

Such claims are far from dead; although the exchange has been moving some way towards countering this latter complaint by tightening up on its own internal regulatory structure. But it is now having to face up to a potentially much more damaging threat to its traditional style of operation because, it comes from within, from among those who are fundamental supporters of what the Stock Exchange stands for.

At issue is the whole nature of the system under which shares are traded in the stock market. Basic questions are being asked about the jobbing and broking system, unique to Britain, focusing on whether the system can survive for much longer in its present form.

The question of competition and whether there are now enough jobbers to make a proper market, is one issue

to be looked at, although the jobbers themselves argue that reduction in the number of principals and agents has not brought a reduction in competitiveness.

More fundamental is the question of how well equipped the jobbing system is to withstand a market increasingly dominated by institutions and in which international share trading is assuming growing importance.

Recently it has become increasingly clear that this system can impose strains, particularly upon the jobbers. The number of jobbing firms has fallen from 100 in 1960 to 20 now, the reduction being highlighted by the proposal in August of two of the big five firms, Smith Brothers and Biggods, Bishopsgate, to merge.

The Stock Exchange made no secret of its regret at the deal, but was equally obliged to accept the facts of life and duly gave its approval. However, only shortly afterwards it announced the setting up of a committee to look into the future of the stock market. Basic questions are being asked about the jobbing and broking system, unique to Britain, focusing on whether the system can survive for much longer in its present form.

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now enough jobbers to make a proper market, is one issue

to be looked at, although the jobbers themselves argue that reduction in the number of principals and agents has not brought a reduction in competitiveness.

Arguably the only way jobbers could be expected to cope in such circumstances would be for them to hold larger books and that would in turn require them to have much bigger capital to cover the enlarged risk. The issue of whether jobbers are undercapitalised is thus a central one.

The other main area in which the future of the jobbing system is under review is in the international equity market. During the past two or three years British jobbers have watched, with a growing sense of frustration, the progressive appropriation of their foreign business by the big American brokerage houses. The American system, unlike the British, operates on a "dual capacity" basis, that is, a firm can both make a market and act as an agent for buyers and sellers.

To a large extent jobbers blame the loss of business on the rule requiring British investors to surrender 25 per cent of the debts premium when they sell overseas securities. The resulting drop in international business earlier this year prompted Smith Brothers, London's sole jobber in gold shares, unsuccessfully to seek to broaden its trading base by obtaining Stock Exchange permission to deal

directly in gold shares with same non-member firms such as American brokers.

The success of the foreign brokers in taking a rising share of the market in which London has traditionally been so strong has inevitably raised the question of whether British jobbers are at a fundamental competitive disadvantage by not having dual capacity status.

It is not only the jobbing system which has come under the microscope however. At the beginning of this month the Office of Fair Trading revealed that it was starting a major investigation into the workings of the Stock Exchange which, besides looking into the separation of the broking and jobbing systems, will concentrate also on the question of whether listed broker-dealers commissions are an undesirable restrictive practice.

The Stock Exchange is vigorously opposed to any change in the present system, pointing out that if fixed commissions are abolished the British market will inevitably go the way of the American market where rates two years ago increased by a serious financial crisis for many small brokers from and a significant reduction in their numbers.

The author is Deputy Financial Editor, The Times.

## Test for banks' ability to survive

by Ronald Pullen

For a business that has always preferred to do things in its own way and at its own usually restrained pace, the British banking system has had to cope in the past decade with more than enough deep-seated changes to the way it operates to last most clearing bankers a lifetime.

Given so, the banking system is likely to see just as many changes in the years to come. They may be more subtle than such radical departures as the competition and credit control policy introduced in 1971 or even the implications of publishing the clearing's true deficit for the first time, which forced the clearers to pay much closer attention to earnings. But they will nevertheless test both the clearers' and merchant bank's "protean capacity to survive".

The nature of the challenges that are likely to stimulate change, however, will be rather different from those prevailing in the 1960s. Then the clearers in particular came under attack from various quarters—not least Lord Cromer, when Governor of the Bank of England, the old Prices and Incomes Board and the Monopolies Commission—whose community reform was at the banks were in one way or another leading a featherbedded existence.

And indeed, prevented from competing on interest rates, the clearers did to a large extent lead a comfortable life on the back of the generally high level of Bank rate prevailing during the period.

But the competitive climate has become much hotter in the 1970s, and while the clearers have managed to

consolidate their position as the fulcrum of the financial system they are having to leaders.

For the competitive winds stand still. For the most are blowing in other directions, this has resulted in a tides as well. On the rapid expansion of ancillary services from the clearers' financial services such as fighting a losing battle hire purchase, leasing, factoring, insurance and fund management. But perhaps both of whom have increased their share of total deposits in recent years.

Indeed, over the next few years one of the main political battles that the clearers will have to fight is to try to reduce to a minimum the tax advantages of the building societies in particular, to be on a level footing and able to compete with other deposit taking institutions.

On the lending front, too, the clearers have begun to occupy a lot of management time, since despite building up their retail operations abroad the British clearers still have to make the same choices as the wholesale money markets, and with an expensive branch network to support, have become aggressive lenders to the corporate sector.

Already this has forced the clearers to abandon largely their reliance on overdraft rates as the benchmark for corporate borrowers and replace these with more competitive packages.

The clearers have also begun to tailor their lending to industry to its more specific demands for medium-term funds. Increasingly, however, as the international arrangements for channelling finance to industry come under the microscope (as they are at the moment with the Wilson Committee), the pressure will be on the clearers to provide longer-term funds or even provide equity participation.

In sum, this raises complex problems about the deposit structure of the clearers and whether they should seek to attract more stable funds.

Yet there is one area where the clearers are fairly clear about where they want to be, even if the route is

a little hazy, and that is farther down the road to certain services free as loss.

Broadly speaking, this means replacing the physical movement of cash cheques and other money transmission methods with computer-assisted techniques.

The argument is that the clearers will have to fight to be against the building societies and National Savings.

It has meant a considerable increase in their share of total deposits in recent years.

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back to their homes in Surrey and Kent while Londoners got on with the job of running their city.

The second objection is that the City appears to than any other local authority in Britain. Of the £162m collected in rates last year most went to the GLC and the Inner London Education Authority, leaving just £23m for its own services of housing, libraries, police, roads and cleansing, health, social services and town development. The City does not complain about its contribution, but resents the accusation that it is hoarding its riches.

Mr Hall, Chairman of the Corporation's policy committee, believes firmly that the Mayoralty is one of the nation's most potent international assets, and that the Corporation is democratic, if different.

Defending the use of the business vote, he says: "The business interests of this capital city would be irretrievably harmed if the only interests to be considered by the Corporation were those of the residents."

There is no doubt that the Corporation did its cause lasting harm over the refusal of the Court of Aldermen in 1974 to accept Mrs Edwin Coven as the first woman among them.

In the past the City was indifferent about defending itself, as if the whole matter was beneath contempt.

More recently however, the City's leaders have realized the seriousness of the threat, and come out fighting whenever the challenge is re-posed.

Led mainly by Mr Norman Bell, the City Corporation points out that it contributed

## Abolition threat recedes with Tories at County Hall

by Christopher Warman

The existence of the City of London as a local government authority is in no doubt at present. The Conservative administration at County Hall strongly opposes the Labour Party view that the Corporation should be abolished.

"The City should be brought under modern democratic local government and its wealth and income used for the benefit of all Londoners,"

Third is the claim that there is an almost total lack of democracy within the City. There are 5,000 residential voters and 8,000 business voters, although elsewhere the business vote was abolished in 1969. Why is there not a business vote for the 500,000 office workers who come into the City daily and really create its wealth, they ask. In addition, because of the electoral boundaries, 66 per cent of the residential voters are represented by only 12 per cent of the councillors.

Defending the use of the business vote, he says: "The business interests of this capital city would be irretrievably harmed if the only interests to be considered by the Corporation were those of the residents."

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Led mainly by Mr Norman Bell, the City Corporation points out that it contributed

It was this that helped to give momentum to the latest anti-City campaign, but even now there is no clear idea of what would be done with the Corporation if it were abolished.

One suggested solution is to make the area the responsibility of a GLC committee; this scarcely answers the call for more local democracy. Such a solution moreover would be incompatible with the increasing pressure on the GLC—and the avowed intention of the Conservative party to confine its role to that of a truly strategic authority, leaving the management of local services to the boroughs.

The alternative would be to cut the area into pieces and hand them round to neighbouring boroughs, which would cause a great squabble.

It is by no means certain that all the boroughs would want their share.

The campaign has never been reached before, with its acceptance as Labour policy, and there it will stay for the present. The Corporation can and does call on the finest City to form a powerful lobby against any change. As long as the City remains the centre of national and international finance, the Corporation surely has an assured future.

The author is Local Government Correspondent, The Times.

The author is Banking Correspondent, The Times.

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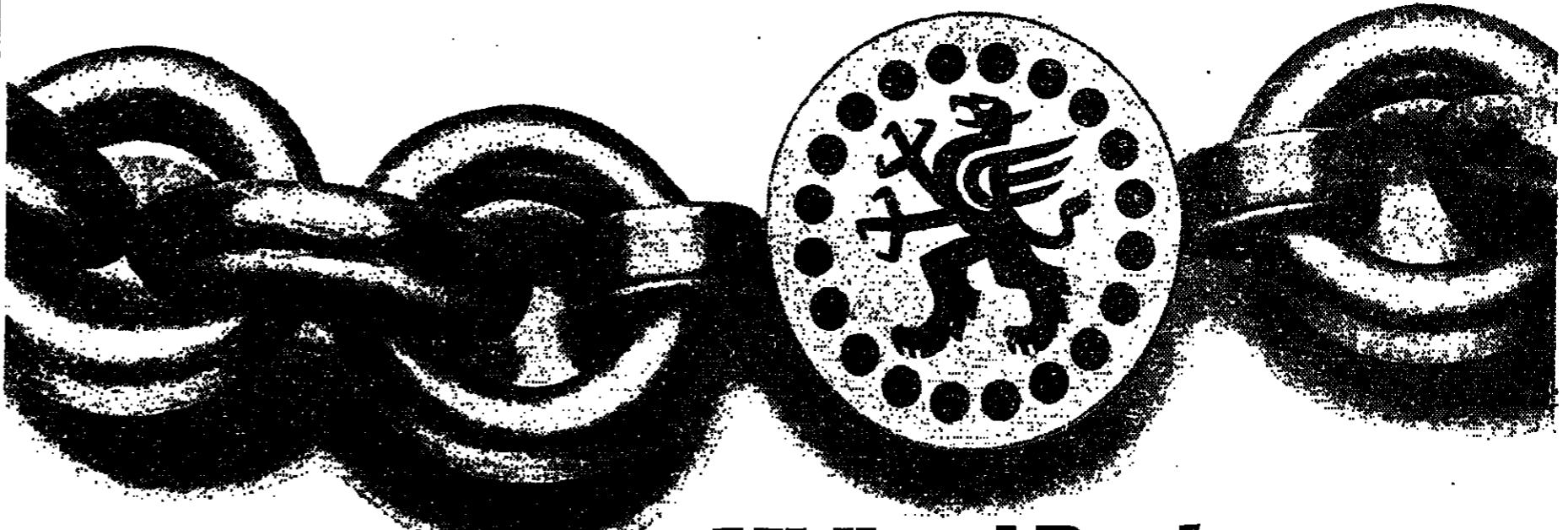
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The long and the short of it... a close up of part of the panorama on the facing page. The pictures were taken from Guy's Hospital.

## 'Anachronism' confounds its critics and expands

by Nicholas Hirst

Lloyd's insurance market, on the surface, has no right to exist in 1977, never mind prosper. It is an anachronism depending on private wealth at a time when fortunes are dwindling and investment is being taken over by huge institutions. It depends on individual flair for decision making, which elsewhere is increasingly being submerged beneath technological innovation and bureaucracy, and to some extent it depends on London's reputation as a financial centre, which is ever more under attack from rivals the world over.

Yet the statistics speak for themselves. The growth of Lloyd's recently has outstripped all expectations. It is ever more popular as a means for investment for the rich that are left. It has survived the financial crisis of the mid-1970s that threat-

ened to engulf even the composites as well as its exposure to the sagging marine market, and it made an underwriting profit for 1974, the last year for which its books are now closed, despite the dismal underwriting climate of the time.

So confident is Lloyd's of its future that six leading architects have recently been asked to draw up a scheme to provide additional underwriting space. This will be the third time since the First World War that Lloyd's has outgrown its surroundings. The building it moved into in 1928 lasted until 1958, when the move was made across Lime Street to what is always referred to as the "new building". Now despite increasing use of the available floor space the area is beginning to prove too small for the continuing expansion of business and underwriting syndicates.

The architects are looking at the "old building" which at present houses administration, although some staff has already been moved out of the City. A redevelopment of both buildings poses immense problems. A solution will undoubtedly be found, but that it is needed could hardly have been envisaged a decade or so ago.

In the 1960s many people thought Lloyd's could not survive much longer. A poor performance had frightened new capital, private wealth in any case seemed to be on the decline and the sheer muscle, computer-powered research and skills available to the composites appeared likely to win business away from Lloyd's.

Premium income of Lloyd's in 1948 was £126m. After another decade, at the time of the move across Lime Street, it had more than doubled to £301m. Within the next three years it had doubled again, but then as the fears grew that its capital would not be able to keep pace with a growing insur-

ance market, the growth slowed. In 1970 premium income was £737m; then the rapid inflation that was beginning to come through pushed premium income to £1,191m in 1973 and by the following year had leapt again to £1,539m, a growth in the 1970s that has far outstripped inflation.

The growth is not easily explained. The marine market had not seriously declined three years ago, but ranker losses in 1976, and since then air disasters and other horrors which have hit the composite market must have affected business.

But the all important providers of private capital, the "name" of Lloyd's who have proved possession of at least £75,000 (or £37,500 for the so-called mini-members), and said uninsured liability to underwrite risks keep flooding in. At the beginning of 1977 a record 2,500 new names were taken on, bringing the Lloyd's mem-

bership to 10,670, and there are now 5,000 applications awaiting decision.

Here its advantage over the traditional reinsurer is that

the Lloyd's underwriter will

probably also write direct

risks, which enables him to

assess the potential reinsurance risk from his own

experience.

It is skill in pricing

new kinds of business that

gives Lloyd's its best chance

of keeping ahead in an in-

creasingly competitive world.

It was Lloyd's that devised

the first policy to cover an

"air-cushion vehicle". The

odd terminology refers to

hovercraft, which tell be-

tween the aviation and

marine markets. Also it has

been able to make up some

of the poor premium income

on the marine side by insur-

ance of North Sea risks. At

first, claims experience was

bad but Lloyd's stuck with

it and it has now proved

profitable and is a significant

part of many marine under-

writers' business, and as

new risks come

along requiring new kinds

of cover.

## Commodities producers seek to negotiate from strength

by Wallace Jackson

Although London commodity prices have presented an up-down, up-down pattern of incessant change in the past decade, the degree of change in the markets themselves has been minimal.

However, two factors—increasing unrest among producers in the developing countries and concern about the degree of speculation in the markets—will almost certainly bring changes.

The grievance of the Third World producers is in essence simple: many of them are entirely dependent on their own economies and their internal economies and earn foreign exchange and they maintain that the developed world has for too long been obtaining materials which cannot be replaced too cheaply.

But not only do they seek what they consider to be a fairer price for their raw materials to leave a reasonable margin after costs of production have been covered but they also want

to move into the sphere of processing and manufacturing their own primary products so that first the industrial wealth is more evenly spread and second so that they can move towards being developed rather than developing countries.

These aspirations are not new but enormous impetus has been provided by the success of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) in forming a producers' cartel which has held the oil consuming world to ransom by controlling both supplies and prices.

It follows that producers of other raw materials are anxious and would like to place themselves in a similarly strong position.

The stumbling block is that with almost all other raw materials besides oil there is either the danger of driving consumers towards the use of substitutes—aluminium for copper; plastics for tin; synthetic rubber for natural rubber and so on—or, particularly in the case of "soft" com-

modities (coffee, cocoa or sugar), creating resistance or to the use of the product as has been seen with coffee and chocolate.

But if the creation of outright cartels is for a variety of reasons, including lack of cohesion among producers, too difficult to achieve in most cases, there remains the possibility of international agreements with consuming countries.

Although there are already pacts covering coffee, cocoa, sugar and wheat, the model for supporters of such agreements has always been the International Tin Agreement (ITA) which has operated for 20 years.

But even here the course has become anything but smooth with some participating producers, notably Bolivia, complaining that the price levels under the existing version of the pact, which has operated since January 1, are unrealistic: that consuming nations should be compelled to contribute to the International Tin Council's buffer stock to which producer members

must subscribe, and that the important producer, Malaysia, and the important consumer, the United States, have too much influence in the Tin Council.

To add to the difficulties, the ITC has for some months been unable to regulate the tin market, buying when the price is low and selling when it is high, because there has been no tin in the buffer stock and the Malaysian price has held consistently well above the ceiling under the ITA.

Nevertheless, there is great pressure for the formation of further international agreements and at the centre of such activity stands the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Uncad) which sponsors an integrated commodity price stabilization programme.

Under this programme there would be pacts between producers and consumers for individual commodities backed by a common fund which would supply the cash for buffer stocks, where suitable. The impact of these nego-

tiations on the City of London's commodity markets entirely, the result would be that the market would move to a country in which it was more likely to succeed.

Failure to reach agreement with the consuming nations would not mean that the Third World producers would quietly go away. They would strive to resolve their differences and it would be only a matter of time before producer cartels in copper, tin and other key commodities were set up.

Moves in the East to establish commodity markets would gain momentum and it is not difficult to envisage London losing its supremacy as the world centre for commodity trading and pricing.

The second important area of concern so far as the City is concerned is the growth in recent years of speculation in commodities and the futures markets by investors seeking a hedge against inflation, interest rates and changes in exchange rates.

Speculation in moderation is recognized as a necessary part of commodity market operations and if attempts were made to eliminate it

entirely, the result would be to a country in which it was more likely to succeed.

But some alarm has been created by a substantial flow of new money into commodities, much of it from inexperienced investors who operate on rumour rather than analysis.

In fact, the London markets are supervised by the Bank of England which, through the medium of special reports and with the co-operation of the markets themselves, keeps a close eye on speculation, advising where action is seen to be needed. In the future this supervision will probably become tighter.

One change the city will probably see soon is a modification of the London Metal Exchange's traditional method of trading by "principal's contract", under which dealing is between one member and another without the intervention of a clearing house.

The author is Commodities Editor, The Times.

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## Barbican remains an enclave for the privileged

by Alan Hamilton

There are, according to City Corporation statistics, four unskilled manual workers living in the Barbican. Hardly a typical proportion out of the 6,000 residents of the City's only major housing scheme, but then the City of London is a highly over-endowed residential area.

At least part of the original conception of the Barbican was to bring back some life to the Square Mile whose daytime working population of 350,000 dwindles to a mere 7,500 going to bed within its boundaries at night. But the kind of life it has brought is not perhaps what was envisaged. A retired civil servant who lives there remarked: "The Barbican was built for the senior clerks, but the principals have moved in."

Like any other local authority, the City Corporation has certain housing obligations, although in this case they are probably less than any where else. Apart from the Barbican, which is populated by managers who could just as easily live elsewhere (indeed one tenth of them have second homes), the City has some 2,000 tenants, housed largely outside its own boundaries. There is one small scheme of traditional council accommodation in Middlesex Street, but the City's main provision for essential tenants is in schemes at Kentning and Holloway.

Those eligible for the City's housing register fall into three categories: existing City residents; those who work in the City and have a genuine housing or medical need; and key workers in essential City services. The waiting list is tiny compared with other London boroughs.

By the end of the century the size and composition of the City's tiny permanent population are unlikely to be greatly different from what they are today, except that the proportion of manual workers may decrease even further. The background study on population and housing now circulating as part of the City development plan asks questions and offers options, but gives no answers. Some trends, however, are already evident.

First, it is inordinately expensive to build houses in this crowded and priceless square mile of land, so much

so that few schemes in the usual sense of hostels-type accommodation for single professional workers would be welcomed.

There is also some suggestion that the City may have been rather too ready to dismiss the need for subsidised key workers. Even within the corporation itself, there are officials who feel that the order of priorities should be low-paid essential workers first, hostels for the single professionals second, and market-rate accommodation for money-earning classes last.

Whatever kind of people they feel they should be housing, the City fathers lost an opportunity to create some delightful residential development along the riverside. Alas, of the two sites which have been vacant in recent years, one is now covered by the Post Office telephone building, and the other is about to be occupied by a school.

The response to the City's background study may throw up a different set of priorities, although the public meetings already held to discuss the future shape of the City have drawn disappointing attendances. Already there are signs that a greater

proportion of hostels-type accommodation for single professional workers would be welcomed. There is also some suggestion that the City may have been rather too ready to dismiss the need for subsidised key workers. Even within the corporation itself, there are officials who feel that the order of priorities should be low-paid essential workers first, hostels for the single professionals second, and market-rate accommodation for money-earning classes last.

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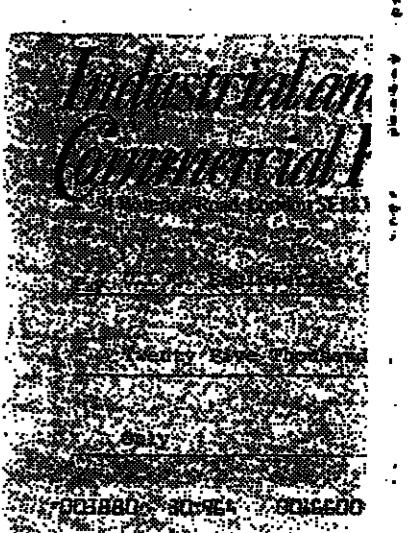
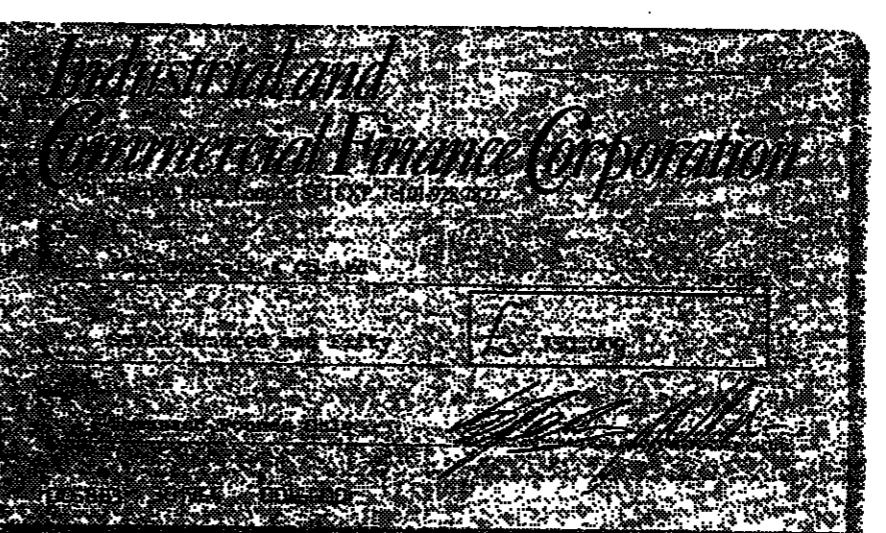
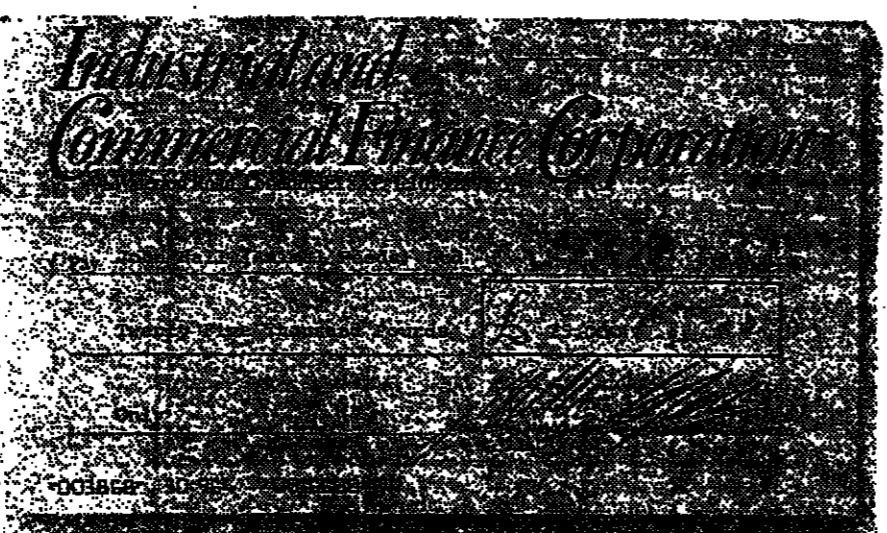
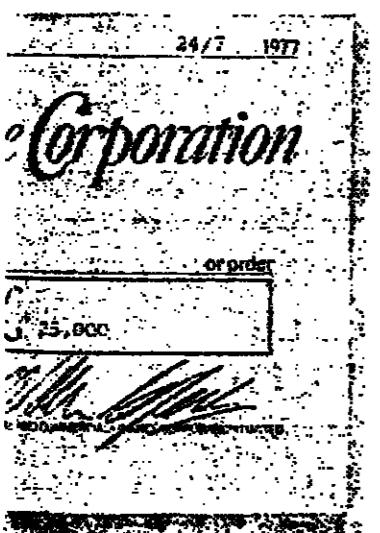
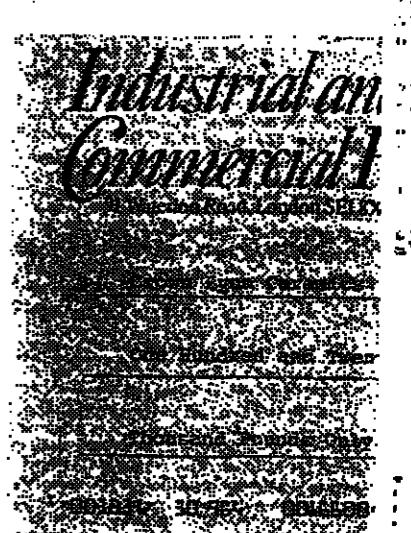
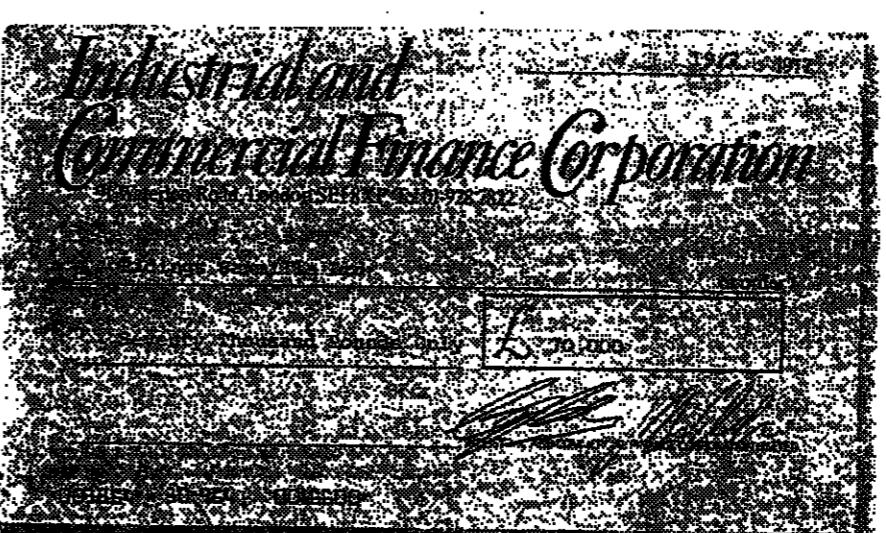
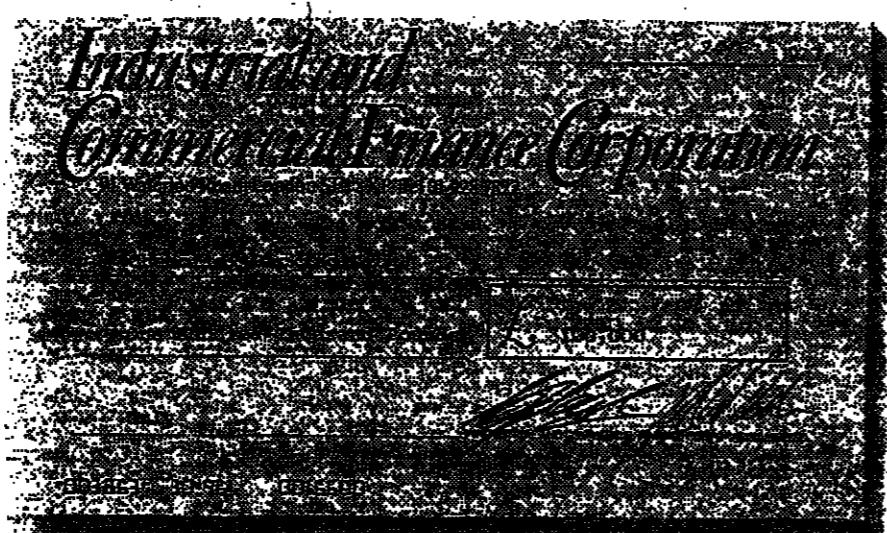
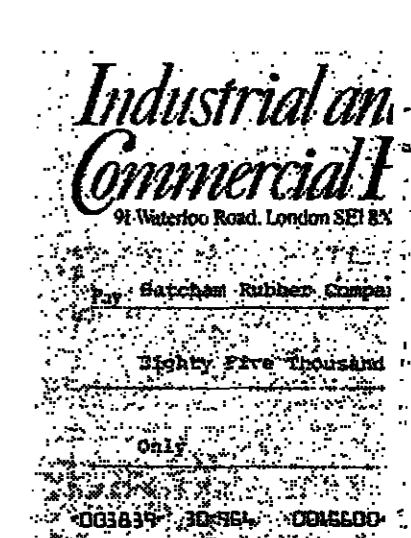
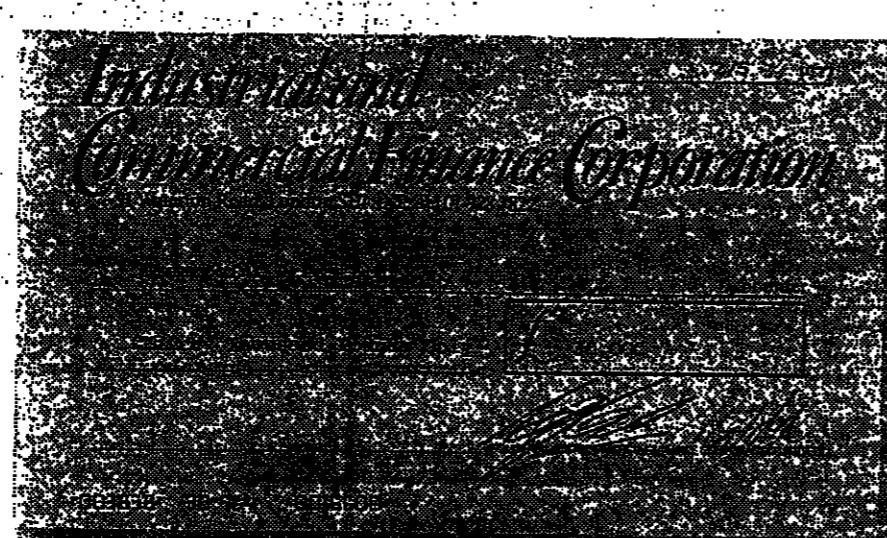
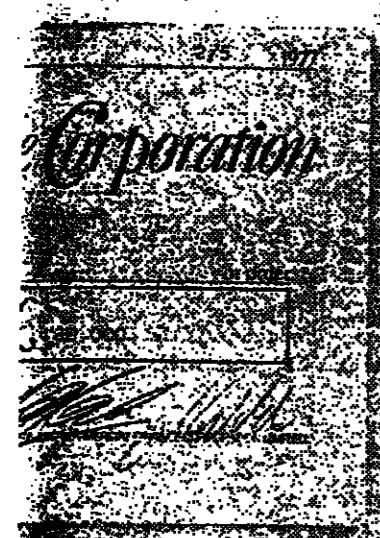
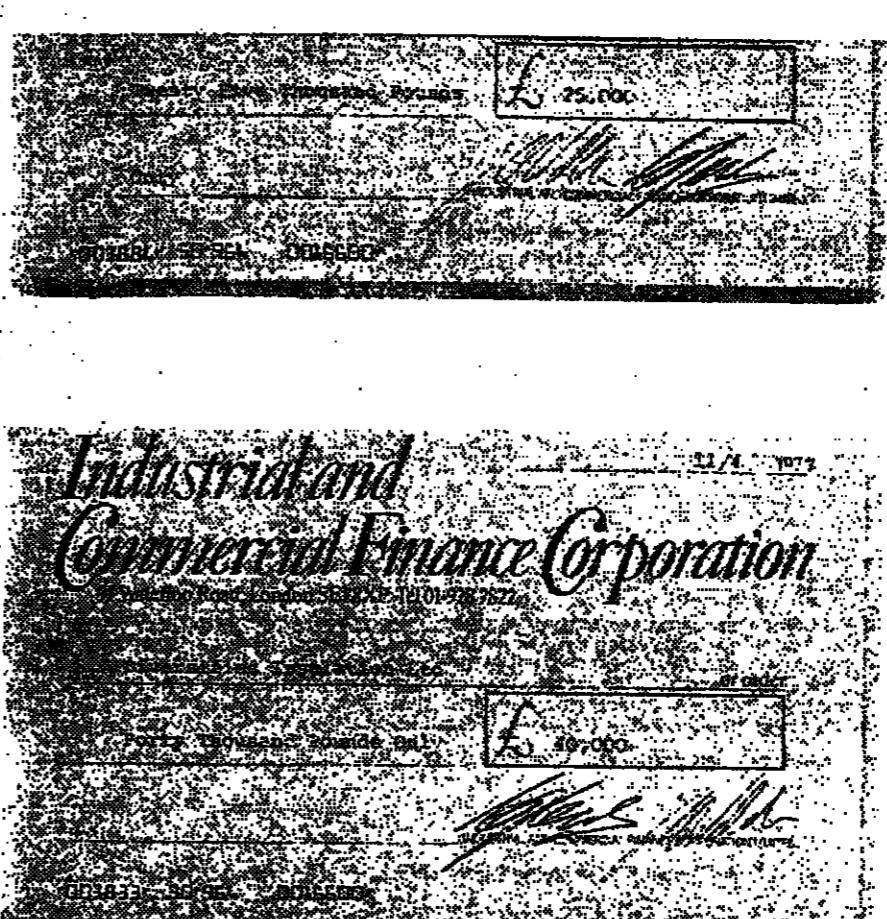
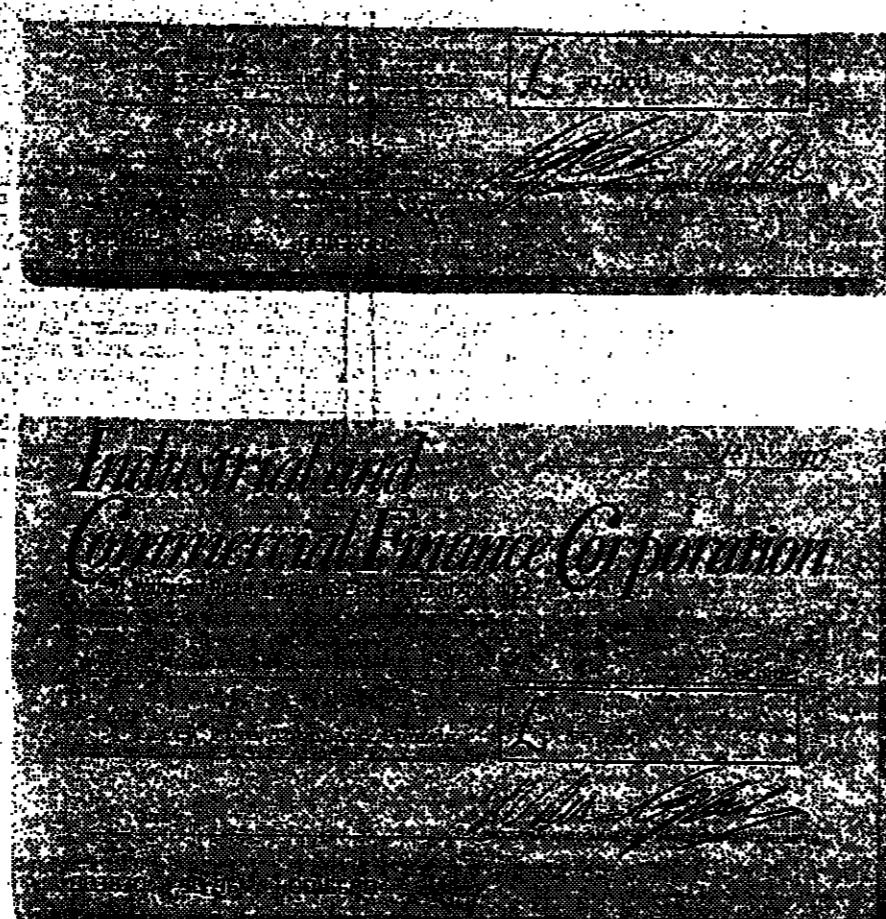
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## Intervention grows with the economy

by John Whitmore

The directness of the relationship may be questionable, but the rapid growth in the size and activity of the financial sector since the early 1960s has run in parallel with a steady shift in the centre of political gravity in Britain towards the left and interventionism.

The result has been that the financial community now finds itself almost permanently in the public dock. It was put there first in the late 1960s on charges of merger mania and asset stripping. Next it was held responsible for the boom, and then the bust, in property, secondary banking and secondary insurance. Finally came the charge of national subversion through itself.

Parts of the Labour Party have pressed hard for just that, but the Government

the spread of manic depression and the financial starvation of industry.

Throughout all this, the bankers have come under fire every time sterling has lurched, the building societies have consistently managed to displease someone, and there has been a steady stream of individual causes célèbres of every description—and some, apparently, beyond it.

It is little surprise, then, that over the years a political noose has been cast around the financial community. From time to time there have been rags on the rope, but as yet nobody has had the inclination to spring the trap-door.

Parts of the Labour Party have pressed hard for just that, but the Government

and the public that, despite the

just for a casual stroll?" Switzerland, Germany, Israel, Italy, Liechtenstein and the United States to investigate the foreign "ends" of City-based frauds.

Mr James Page, then Commissioner, wrote in his annual report: "The international scene is now very much more extensive, with companies registered abroad in countries whose records are sometimes difficult to obtain."

"The success that we do achieve in dealing with these cosmopolitan crimes is the result of excellent international cooperation between police forces."

However, each has to operate within its own laws which does create some difficulty. It is hoped that within the near future some

firmly. It has known that the Labour movement as a whole is anything but united on the scale and type of financial sector intervention that might be appropriate. It has been preoccupied with more important issues and it has had the sense to realize that there is more electoral mileage in intermittently tickling the electorate's envy and sense of "social justice" than, for instance, in recommending the elector that wholesale intervention would put his savings and his credit rating in the hands of Big Brother.

At the other end of the hangman's rope, the financial community has itself been doing its utmost to prevent the rope from tightening. It has put an increasing amount of effort into keeping its house in order and abreast of the times. It has also put considerable effort into trying to persuade the public that, despite the

inevitable warts, it is not at

heart the greedy ogre that is often portrayed to be.

Rather, it is a highly professional industry that serves the community rather better

than profligate governments

and which, by large, can regulate its affairs in the

public interest rather better

than a host of new bureaux.

That said, it has found the going tough, largely for three reasons. First, it has, at least until recently, found precious little support in the political arena. Secondly, the disparate nature of the financial sector has made it ideal for attack but difficult to defend. Thirdly, the City, whatever its other skills, has been slow to learn the techniques of mass propaganda.

Where, then, is the issue from here? A great deal depends on the outcome of the next election. A clear Labour victory, particularly if later followed by a switch of emphasis to an additional bill for the taxpayer and/or the possible loss of thousands of jobs. And they know, too, that state intervention could overnight destroy Britain's financial service industry's role as a significant foreign currency earner.

The politicians know, moreover, that wholesale intervention might well face them with the possibility of an additional bill for the taxpayer and/or the possible loss of thousands of jobs.

And they know, too, that state intervention could overnight destroy Britain's financial service industry's role as a significant foreign currency earner.

from here? A great deal depends on the outcome of the next election. A clear Labour victory, particularly if later followed by a switch of emphasis to an additional bill for the taxpayer and/or the possible loss of thousands of jobs. And they know, too, that state intervention could overnight destroy Britain's financial service industry's role as a significant foreign currency earner.

Meanwhile, the issue itself divides fairly neatly into three regulation, the direction of funds and the role of the Bank of England.

As far as regulation goes, developments have come in a variety of ways. Self-regulation has seen the evolution of, for instance, the Takeover Panel and with the full approval of the self-regulating school, greater volume of Stock Exchange inquiries into malpractice. And as a financial sector watchdog, the Bank of England has become much

more vigilant, particularly in the wake of the secondary banking crisis. It is playing the central role in the development of a non-statutory board to oversee the securities industry.

On the governmental front, Whitehall has shown considerable interest in financial sector developments. It has taken an active interest in inflation accounting and has also joined in a joint advisory committee with the building societies.

On the legislative front, it has introduced the Policyholders Protection Act, affecting insurance companies, and the Companies (No 2) Act, affecting auditors. At some stage, and with the full approval of the self-regulating school, it will introduce legislation on insider dealing.

The direction of funds has two aspects to it—the possi-

bility of pushing of funds towards politically chosen homes, and the negative restriction on the free flow of funds.

To date the latter has been more important, with the Monopolies Commission considerably narrowing the interpretation of what is an acceptable merger.

The more serious threat in the future, however, is clearly the positive direction of institutional funds. The capital markets have responded to the threat of

Enterprise Board with initiatives of their own—building

Finance for Industry and

creating Equity Capital for

industry. Alternatively, it might be given greater powers in one or the other areas, but not the other. Which, only time will tell.

**Reuters is proud to have served the City for more than 125 years through five reigns.**



by Nicholas Hirst

In some ways criticizing accountants for the financial collapses and disorder of the mid-1970s is like complaining to the Meteorological Office over the weather or blaming lawyers for an increase in the rate of crime.

But accusations that accountancy failed to give sufficient warning of overstretched balance-sheets or that the standards they applied were not sufficiently stringent, have held enough truth to cause the profession considerable embarrassment and encourage it to change its ways.

Only recently, however, has it begun to be generally understood that the compiling of balance-sheets, and the reporting of them is a very subjective task, and that any statement that says a set of figures represents a "true and fair view" is a statement of opinion, not of fact. It depends to a great extent on what standards have been applied in drawing up the figures.

of these laws may be varied to facilitate the investigation of international crimes, particularly within the Common Market countries, to allow the freer movement of investigating officers. This is something which requires urgent attention by the Government if the international criminals are to be curbed.

In fact, during the last 12 months international cooperation has greatly improved, mainly as a result of personal contact with forces across the Channel and through Interpol.

The department has also lost the bowler hat image. Fraudulent officers are on nodding acquaintance with many more City "villagers" than they were in the past.

"Generally speaking we

occurrence to bump into a do not encounter the violence which is commonplace with other forms of crime. In fact, many of our clients are arrested by appointment at their solicitors' offices.

"The City still clings to its gentlemanly tradition although in a few cases we are now finding criminals who set up 'fronts' in the City and protect them with roughstuff."

"You don't need to be an accountant or a mathematician to be useful in the department. You just need the instincts of a good policeman," was told. "We can call on plenty of professional help if required from our friends in the City or one of the department said.

"One cannot escape the fact, though, that in the next 10 years this type of crime will be a real headache

in the City, as it is in the companies is now being

United States now.

"Computers are getting

smaller and in time will be

cheaper. While they

are in the hands of big and

efficient business there will

be no problems but our

troubles will start when

smaller groups of criminal

organizations possess them."

One of the department's senior officers has just returned from a long and

exhaustive course on computer crime organized by FBI fraud experts. The course not only highlighted the role of computers in

fraud but also in industrial espionage and intrusion into

corporations.

The implicit trust placed

in the computer by some

## Fraud Squad is in business

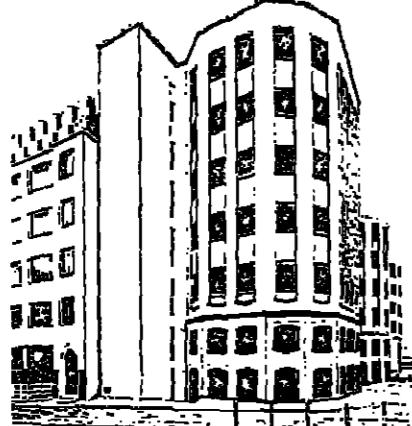
Statue of Paul Julius Reuter outside the Royal Exchange Buildings where he founded the agency in 1851.

**REUTERS**

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**The changing face of London epitomised by its new riverside buildings**

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## Tradition at sixes and sevens

by Alan Hamilton

Dick Whittington does not really deserve all the kudos. He was by no means the first Lord Mayor of London, and it is doubtful whether he ever had a cat, although he did hold the post of London's First Citizen three times. The first recorded mayor was Henry Fitz Alwyn in 1192, and he probably did not have a cat either.

The City's governing body is so old that it has no charter of incorporation, and exists only by right of custom and practice since at least the time of Alfred the Great, who appointed his son-in-law its alderman in 886. In 1100 years of history the City has collected a vast store of tradition and ancient practice, much of which continues to be preserved and re-enacted at the appropriate time each year.

One of the oldest is the Trial of the Pyx. Every year since 1248 the Goldsmiths' Company has been on the lookout for counterfeited coin of the realm in a ceremony held in March. One coin out of every 5,000 produced by the Royal Mint (now moved from the City to South Wales) is put in a sealed packet, and the packers into a series of boxes called The Pyx. Members of the Company check the denominations of the coins, weigh them in bulk, and announce their findings to the Lord Mayor to his citizens on his way to swear allegiance to the Sovereign. From the fifteenth century until 1856 the procession went by barge to Westminster Hall, and since 1883 the Lord Mayor has taken his oath before the Monarchs' Justices at the Royal Courts of Justice in Strand.

Another ancient ceremony is held at the Law Courts each October, when the City Solicitor pays the Queen's Remembrancer the quid pro quo for two City buildings, one of which is a bouquet of roses to the Lord Mayor. His will that he had been induced to make by his bequest by the fact that his wife was a native of London, and he had passed many happy years of his life in that City.

Once a fortnight the children of Bow pass under a small wooden arch in Farn Street inscribed: "Enter all ye children small; None can come who are too tall". Those who can pass under are presented with rosettes.

A building in Philpot Lane has what appears to be a curving of a mouse and a piece of bread on the facade. Tradition affirms that while the builders had stopped for lunch, a mouse ran off with one workman's sandwich; he pried open a handful of coins and imprisoned it and his lunch to eat on the wall.

Silhouetted against the sky above Cornhill is a pair of crocodiles de'is that appear poised to leap on to the church of St Peter below. The architect, Rundt, lost a dispute with the church authorities and erected the devils to show his disfavour.

There are countless more oddities and traditions, many of them listed in Kent's classic *Encyclopaedia of London*, recently revised by the present City Librarian, Godfrey Thompson, and others in Andrew Lawson's *Undiscovered London*, published this year.

One more recent tradition, as prevalent in London as elsewhere, is the writing of graffiti on walls. What will future historians make of the inscription seen recently: "Keep Britain tidy—eat a pigeon"?

## TWO OF THE CITY'S OLDEST INSTITUTIONS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE ON MICROFILM

Nowhere can the changing face of the City be seen more vividly than through the pages of its newspapers, and the City is fortunate in having two of this country's oldest established daily newspapers, LLOYD'S LIST and the FINANCIAL TIMES serving its needs. Many companies find newspapers a valuable reference source, but are beset by storage problems. Newspaper Archive Developments (a division of Times News Papers Limited) have come up with a solution, by supplying these newspapers on microfilm.

### LLOYD'S LIST

Established in 1734, Lloyds List can boast of being London's oldest surviving daily newspaper; and has long been regarded as an authoritative source in the realm of commerce and sea transport. Now sold in more than 100 countries, it has extended its coverage to the entire transport industry, catering in particular for the needs of those working in shipping, insurance, banking and finance, air freight and the energy fields.

### FINANCIAL TIMES

For over 90 years one of the world's leading business orientated newspapers, and now as much a financial institution as the stock exchange itself. The Financial Times continues to achieve its original aim of 1888—"To omit nothing which could be of interest to the business man".

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## More traded than stocks and shares

by Richard Warden

Terms were agreed last month in the final negotiation of new 12-year leases for the 180 tenants of Smithfield Market. For the 109 years since the London Central Meat, Poultry and Provisions Markets were established there, Smithfield has run on weekly tenancies. Two of the new 12-year tenants had successors who opened there in the first week.

There is another link with the old system. Tenancies were always subject to a particular City Corporation condition: a breach of covenant by any tenant constituted an automatic breach of tenancy. It means that if a market dealer does not pay his suppliers, then he forfeits his pitch. The same applies under the new tenancies.

All four of the City's produce markets — Billingsgate, Leadenhall, Smithfield and Spitalfields — combine trading like this with varying degrees of modern distributive practice. Smithfield is the market that the biggest and most modern changes in the wholesale trading and retailing of food.

Its volume of business rivals that of some of the financial markets of the City. And the physical trading done inside the market, about £150m a year, does not convey the whole picture... As with the commodity or metals markets, volume done inside the exchanges may be outweighed by that done in the business quarter which surrounds them.

The meat dealers around Smithfield, using the prices struck there as the going rate for produce which is miles, even continents away, probably buy and sell another £500m of meat a year. Even so, the trading done within the market makes it probably the biggest dead meat, poultry and provisions market in the world.

Why Smithfield has flourished, and Billingsgate's fish market declined, is partly to do with trade practice, partly facilities. Most types

of meat have not suffered the Corporation's decision to move markets around — like pushing the live cattle market out from Smithfield to Islington in 1855; and then moving the Newgate Street and Farringdon markets into Smithfield — and also to determine expenditure on rebuilding.

It administers them as facilities rather than profit-makers, returns being limited to tens of thousands of pounds on gross rents of about £1m.

What most of the working or residential population of the City bothers about, especially now that the worst road congestion problems of the 1950s, although the fairs disrupt the fair, since more fish now arrives already processed and therefore lighter.

So the site having been used for a general market for a thousand years, and as a fish market since the fifteenth century, Billingsgate will probably lose its traders in the next few years, perhaps to a site further east. Councillor Alfred Shindler, chairman of the Central Markets Committee, which controls Smithfield, happens to represent the Billingsgate Ward. He maintains the fish market is still in trading terms, viable, but that it could soon be "dead in the water".

Its disappearance would highlight the phenomenon of how these sprawling produce markets ever came to be set up over acres of an over-crowded financial centre, containing valuable office, bank land. It is just a matter of history, the City having early protected its pre-eminence by getting statute rights to run the main trading markets of the day, and to suppress any markets within seven miles of these.

In practice the Earl of Bedford was granted Covent Garden, and the Crown allowed John Balch to start Spitalfields Market in Stepney on the City borders in 1682 (the City did not buy the market of freehold until 1901). But with few exceptions the City's powers have survived, and the Corporation is effectively the wholesale market authority for Greater London.

Each of its four markets is controlled by a committee of the Common Council and administered by a superintendent, and it has been



Billingsgate: after a thousand years traders may have only a few years left.

## Gastronomic hazards among the office blocks

by John Grosser

A close friend recently made the move from financial journalism to the City. Used to Fleet Street expense accounts, he entertained lavishly with some style at his new merchant bank.

Came the day when he took to luncheon a former senior Tory minister at a not altogether appetising venue in the City. The round Conservative one declared that he was on a diet and proceeded merely to drink Mumm Green Label in vast quantities.

Such was the quantity that my friend asked for a receipt at paying time for the bill, which came to £32. In due course, the financial director of the aforementioned merchant bank sent for the recruit and demanded to know how on earth he and one guest could possibly drink £32-worth of champagne in the luncheon hour.

The reply, with a hint of raised eyebrow, was laconic. "Why, slightly chilled and accompanied by a small

plate of caviar on toast." My friend is now thought of as a "high flyer" in that bank. I only mention this disgusting episode because it was to my gourmet friend that I went when I had been instructed to write this piece about dining and dining in the City. He sighed a mighty sigh and plucked another gull's egg (out of season, but specially flown in from south-equatorial parts) from the basket on his bedside table (he was at this point in hospital for the duration of his wife's confinement before the birth of their first child).

The City, he protested, was a gastronomic desert. There was scarcely a watering hole he would recommend to the readers of this great organ. At this point a comely nurse informed him that he had just become the proud father of twins. He fainted and left me to compose, from no great experience, a guide to the vital issue of what goes on, food and drink-wise, in the City.

His worst experience — an occasion when gastronomy reached its lowest point —

was in a small pub. The dry wine I ordered turned out to be château-bottled, Ugandan riesling (with the special Amin sweetener) and accompanied the house's special "pâté sandwich" — a one inch lump of liver sausage between two one inch slices of bread.

People tell me that City lunches are fattening, boring, indigestible, expensive and the only time to get real business done. And so they may be. When I worked in America, people used to say that the golf course was the only place to get business done, which may also have been true, though I never found it so. I spent so much time in bunkers and forgotten to turn off the motor of my caddy cart (so that it ran off by itself) that business for me was of a purely theatrical character.

So, for that matter, is eating in the City. Summoned to the boardroom of an illustrious clearing bank, I found myself (with emotions approaching awe) seated before the chairman and managing director of this high street Leviathan.

All the wines (including an excellent claret) had been laid down by his father (so, you have guessed which bank) and were a matter of little consequence to the chairman. Nor, for that matter, was the food, which

seemed curiously "nursery" in so oppulent a setting. The aged waiters were wonderful and ensured that if any dish was hot when it arrived from the kitchens, it was definitely cold when it reached the table.

The servers of food and wine are an observer's delight. The relatively new fashion of giving guess luncheons in your office (rather than taking them to an expensive eatery) has provided occupation for many unseated Sloane Rangers.

Fest bottoms and sheer stockings have covered (if the expression may be excused) a multitude of gastronomic sins.

My favourite "in-house" dining room was at the old Spectator offices in Gower Street (which, though not strictly in the City, possessed through the proprietorship of Harry Crichton a definite City quality) where, dolly, cordon-bleu cookeries served goodies to dazzling guests like Margaret Thatcher, Edward Heath and Enoch Powell (though not, I am sure, on the same day).

Then there are the facilities offered by the City Guilds, various (more or less) expensive clubs, a confusing selection of restaurants, wine bars and pubs. If the City, collectively, has hardened arteries, I am hardly surprised.

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# Stock Exchange Prices

## Gilts above the worst

**ACCOUNT DAYS:** Dealings Began, Nov 14. Dealings End, Nov 25. § Contango Day, Nov 28. Settlement Day, Dec 6  
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

John Foord  
CHARTERED SURVEYORS

# THE TIMES BUSINESS NEWS

John Foord  
PLANT AND  
MACHINERY  
VALUERS

## OECD states scrap target and face another year of mounting unemployment

From David Blake  
Paris, Nov 22

The industrial nations of the West today accepted that most of them will have to face another year of rising unemployment in 1978. Hopes, expressed by ministers in June that the economies of countries forming the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development could grow by 5 per cent next year have now been abandoned.

Instead, even the optimists now conclude that, if each country succeeds in meeting its own growth target, the total increase in output during 1978 will be only 4 per cent.

Many countries accept that on present forecasts growth will not grow by as much as they would like next year, and two of the strongest nations, Germany and Japan, have said that they see virtually no scope for further action if they find that they are undershooting their targets. The decision to abandon the 5 per cent growth target for 1978 was taken by senior officials at a meeting of the Economic Policy Committee of the 24-nation OECD.

Officials were presented with two sets of figures during their two-day meeting which ended here tonight. One set consisted of national targets for growth next year. The other, generally much lower, was made up of forecasts drawn up by senior economists at the

OECD on what they believed to be the likely outcome during 1978 if present policies were continued.

Only the United States put forward a reasonably high growth target with great conviction. Mr Charles Schultze, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors, said that America was determined to grow by around 5 per cent next year.

He said that worries about the balance of payments would not be allowed to stand in the way of this growth target, and that if any extra stimulatory action were needed it would be.

Mr Schultze called on other countries to expand their economies more rapidly pointing out that growth outside the United States would be below 4 per cent next year even if all the targets were met; most predictions would set the probable figure at around 3 per cent.

This compares with a growth rate of 5 per cent needed to bring down the unemployment rate in Europe.

Strong American pressure for greater stimulus to demand was backed by Sir Douglas Wass,

permanent secretary to the Treasury. He said that the risks of the world were now much greater on the side of recession than inflation, a view shared by many other countries and the OECD secretariat itself.

On the other side surplus countries such as Germany,

Japan and Switzerland reject the idea that they should cut taxes or boost public spending to stimulate demand.

The Germans say they hope to achieve growth of around 4 to 4½ per cent next year, compared with the 3 per cent forecast by the OECD secretariat for Germany. They add that even if the OECD forecast turns out to be right they do not intend to be forced into action to cut taxes.

They attack both the theory that cuts stimulate growth and the fact that Germany may have a special responsibility, along with Japan, to help lead the world out of recession.

This idea, commonly known as the "locomotive theory" has now been replaced in the thinking of the OECD secretariat by proposals calling for many more countries to stimulate their economies.

Although Germany, Japan and the United States are expected to play an important role, the OECD would like to see more middle-ranking countries playing a more expansionary role.

The meeting of the past two days was originally intended to chart the way forward for joint action by industrial nations to cope with their problems. It seems instead, to have led to a widening of differences between those wanting more expansion and those worried about inflation.

Unemployment, page 31

## Bonn forecast of 3.5 pc GNP rise

From Peter Norman  
Bonn, Nov 22

West Germany's council of economic advisers today forecast that the country's gross national product was likely to rise by only 3.5 per cent in real terms next year after a 2.5 per cent gain this year.

But in their latest report on

the economy the five academics who make up the council argued that the Bonn government had done all it could to promote economic growth.

Although the annual rate of growth is likely to accelerate to 4 per cent in the second half of next year, the council expressed doubts as to whether

wages rose as expected by 5.5 per cent.

The council's prescription for an improvement was "for a clear change of course" in the level of wage settlements.

Union's deaf ear, page 31

## Rising yen brings fears of recession

From Peter Hazelhurst  
Tokyo, Nov 22

Confronted on one side by international threats against Japan's trading policy, Mr Takeo Fukuda, the Japanese Prime Minister, was besieged at home today when business leaders warned the government that the rapid depreciation of the yen would plunge the country's export industry into recession.

The warning was issued when leaders of four industrial associations, the ruling party's major source of financial support, met senior leaders of the Liberal Democratic Party to discuss the next budget.

Mr Toshio Doko, president of Keidanren (the Federation of Economic Organizations), said the yen had been allowed to float up by more than 20 per cent this year to a record post-war level of 241.30 to the dollar to placate Japan's trading partners.

This new rate, coupled with the fact that the government has done nothing to stimulate the economy since last year, was likely to lead to bankruptcies and unemployment unless drastic measures were adopted, Mr Doko is reported to have said.

Mr Fukuda's promises delivered to the conference of industrial leaders in May this year, that Japan would stimulate its economy and domestic demand to encourage imports, have so far not materialized.

Mr Fukuda now faces an acute dilemma. The Japanese Government can, of course, decide to devalue the yen to restore the export industry's competitive edge.

But many economists believe that the step would antagonize Japan's major trading partners.

## Further slide of dollar despite bank support

By Caroline Atkinson

The dollar plunged to new lows against the Japanese yen, the Swiss franc, and the German mark yesterday.

Despite considerable central bank support for the American currency, the dollar closed at 240.6 yen, 2,232 Deutsche marks and 2,406 Swiss francs in London. Its effective depreciation since Smithsonian, measured against a basket of currencies, widened to 2.52 per cent from 2.4 per cent.

The rise in interest rates for six to 12 month money has been going on for some weeks now, and the whole of the money market yield has started to steepen noticeably since the publication last week of the October money supply figures.

The coupon on this week's issue of local authority year-end bonds reflected the recent change, rising from 6½ per cent last week to 7½ per cent.

The interest rate on the first ever batch of floating rate local authority bonds issued yesterday was over six months LIBOR for three year bonds and 2 per cent over LIBOR for five year bonds.

David Mott writes:

Ordinary shares suffered a seventh consecutive day of losses on the London stock market yesterday. With industrial worries and concern over the growth of the money supply investment were not inclined to reverse their recent caution and the FT ordinary share index slipped another 3.5 for a close of 471.8.

Gilt-edged stocks were jolted by the high interest rate fall, though they managed to halve early losses of up to £3 by the end of the session.

Financial Editor, page 31

## How the markets moved

The Times index : 197.89 - 1.99  
The FT index : 471.8 - 3.5

### Rises

Dillons Percy 49 to 155p  
Bowes 49 to 149p  
Comins Radio 14p to 145p  
Electronics Prod. 38 to 57.5p  
Jardine Matheson 39 to 217.5p  
Lia Unl Inv. 39 to 130p  
Metraux 12p to 34p

MTI Dart 2p to 49p  
Preston P Comml 2p to 17.5p  
Raven-Main Prop. 2p to 10.5p  
Reed, W. 3p to 58p  
Steep Rock 5p to 165p  
Stobart & Pitt 2p to 140p  
Sun Alliance 5p to 550p  
Taylor Palls 2p to 74p

### THE POUND

Gold lost \$0.50 an ounce to

\$157.875.

Gilt-edged securities lost ground.

Dollar premium: 100.25 per cent (effective rate 29.40 per cent).

Sterling gained 5 pps to \$1.8180.

The effective exchange rate index was 1485.4 (previous 1485.9).

Reports, pages 32 and 33

Equities fell back.

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Reports, pages 32 and 33

Rates for small denominations have been revised upwards by

Bank of England, International Ltd.

Interest rates apply to overseas

business.

32

## Tyne and Clyde given bulk of ships order

By Desmond Quigley

National Coal Board Pension Fund and the Midland Bank are proposing to put up equity and loan finance for companies with a capitalization of between £5m and £20m.

Both groups—the Midland

through its private finance subsidiary Midland Managed Investments—are proposing a special department to administer the scheme. A spokesman said yesterday: "We regard it as a good market for investment which is to a certain extent has been overlooked."

"We are looking for the soundly based, well-established and well-managed company which is looking for capital investment and indeed the essence appears to be that the NCB

fund will put up the bulk of the money while the Midland will provide management services.

Major beneficiaries are likely to be the smaller public companies, although there is scope also for private companies.

The NCB fund has set up a special department to administer the scheme. A spokesman said yesterday: "We regard it as a good market for investment which is to a certain extent has been overlooked."

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Both groups have been partly

## NCB Pension Fund and Midland Bank in joint financing ventures

By Desmond Quigley

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## Tax deposit demand may have inflated bank loans

By Christopher Wilkins

Growing doubts are being cast on whether the upsurge in bank lending to the private sector last month, which has caused rising City alarm that money supply growth may be getting out of hand, reflected any real underlying increase in loan demand.

Instead it is believed that a key factor behind the big jump in lending in the banking month to mid-October may have been the rapid growth in demand for certificates of tax deposit.

CTDs are relatively new financial instruments, having been introduced only two years ago. They can be acquired from the Inland Revenue in minimum amounts of £2,500 and earn interest until they are used either to meet a tax bill or until they are cashed in.

Until early September, CTDs paid 9 per cent if held for tax payment and 6 per cent if cashed in. Then the rates were lowered to 7½ and 5 per cent and, in October, they were reduced again to 6 and 4 per cent.

The reduction in these rates has lagged some way behind the general fall in money market interest rates and CTDs have, therefore, been less attractive. It is believed there has been a good deal of "round tripping"—borrowing in the money markets to finance purchases of CTDs at a profit.

The scale of the increased demand for CTDs is reflected in the extraordinary growth in issues. In the first quarter issues totalled only £2.2m. In the second quarter they rose to £36.5m, but then in the third quarter they soared to £491m.

It is not clear how far the increase in purchases has been financed by borrowing, but it seems likely that an important part of the average £120m a month of purchases during the third quarter was bank financed. There is some City speculation that banks may have encouraged their customers to take up CTDs as a way of building up their loan portfolios.

If these City views are correct, it would suggest that the underlying level of private sector loan demand is much flatter than recent figures suggest.

This, in turn, would imply that fears of an explosion in money supply as a result of growing private sector borrowing could be overdone.

## Russia and Italy sign \$650m credit

By Richard Allen

Moscow, Nov 22.—Italian and Soviet trade officials today signed a new \$650m (about £360m) credit agreement.

Taking part in the signing ceremony were Signor Rinaldo Ossola, Italy's Minister of Foreign Trade, and Mr Nikolai Pavlovich, Soviet Foreign Trade Minister.

The credit is to be in three annual tranches, 1977 to 1979. The first, for £325m has already been assigned.

Italian banks handling the credit are Istituto Mobiliare Italiano (IMI) and Mediobanca. Both are state-owned.

No details of the credit have been disclosed, but IMI and Mediobanca expected conditions that they could place the Soviet note on the European market fairly easily.

The credit follows one of \$900m opened in early 1976, which has been exhausted.—  
A. Dow Jones.

Union's deaf ear, page 31

## Trafalgar confirms bid for Fairey

By Richard Allen

Moscow, Nov 22.—Italian and Soviet trade officials today signed a new \$650m (about £360m) credit agreement.

Trafalgar said that it had made a cash bid of between £15m and £20m for the principal engineering subsidiaries including Fairey Engineering based at Stockport and other Fairey companies based at Nelson, Middlesex, as well as certain freehold properties.

In a statement issued last night Trafalgar, whose chairman is Mr Nigel Brookes, declared that its operations were in the main compatible with and complementary to Fairey's own construction and engineering interests, mainly the Cleveland Bridge and Engineering Company based in Darlington and Teesside.

The credit was to be considered by the Fairey Group, which is to be formed by the merger of Faire

**In brief****Dismay over transfer of Freightliners to BR**

The Government decision to transfer Freightliners back to British Rail was greeted with dismay by the National Freight Corporation yesterday but received a cautious welcome from British Rail.

Sir Daniel Pettit, NFC chairman, said: "I am sad that such a decision has been taken on what are clearly non-commercial grounds, and for reasons which do not relate to the way the company has been managed and its track record".

British Rail said that while it was glad the Government had recognized its arguments, it would be "inheriting problems", not least trying to work within limited investment possibilities.

**Vauxhall men vote to return today**

The most expensive strike in Vauxhall Motors' recent history ended yesterday when a meeting of 800 skilled workers at its Ellesmere Port plant voted to return to work today.

All car, van and truck production stopped during the five-weeks dispute over craft differences. It cost the company more than £80m worth of vehicles at showroom prices.

**£79m financing pact**

Agreements to finance two contracts worth £79m between Simon-Carves and the Soviet foreign trade organization were signed yesterday between Morgan Grenfell and the Bank for Foreign Trade of the USSR. These will be guaranteed by the Export Credits Guarantee Department. The contracts are part of the Intergovernmental Agreement signed by the United Kingdom and Russia in February, 1975.

**Pembroke consortium**

Texaco and Gulf are to form a consortium to be known as the Pembroke Cracking Company, to construct the joint catalytic cracking unit they plan to build at Pembroke at a cost of between £250m and £300m.

**Foundry expansion**

S. Russell and Sons, Leicester, part of the B. Elliott Group, yesterday announced it has started work on a £2m expansion scheme which will increase output of its two foundries by 55 per cent. The Government is providing £500,000 under the Foundry Aid Scheme.

**Leyland UK tool deal**

Leyland Cars has placed orders worth £1.5m with a British machine tool manufacturer. The contracts cover the supply of rotary transfer machines and other equipment from Wavis Engineering of Solihull. Wavis said the orders would be "widely welcomed as a clear proof of Leyland's stated intention of buying British machines and equipment whenever possible."

Trade deficit with Japan may be lower next year and dollar stronger

**Cuts in US imports of oil forecast**

From Frank Vogl  
Washington, Nov 22

A reduction in United States oil imports and a cut in the trade deficit with Japan are both likely in 1978. These developments could produce a significant reduction in the balance of payments deficit and so serve to strengthen the import bill.

Dr James Schlesinger, the Energy Secretary, stated here that oil imports in 1978 were likely to fall to 8.1 million barrels a day from the present record level of 8.5 million barrels. He said he expected the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to "decide against a further oil price increase at its meeting in Caracas next month.

Mr Lisle Widman, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for International Affairs, said the Treasury used somewhat different oil import figures from those used by the

Department of Energy. The Treasury was not convinced there would be much of a reduction in imports next year.

He admitted that Dr Schlesinger's figures were accurate; then this could translate into a cut of roughly \$2,000m in the import bill.

Dr Schlesinger's estimate of a 400,000 barrel a day cut in imports depends, to a large extent, on heavy output of Alaskan oil more than offsetting any rise in demands resulting from the Government's effort to build up a strategic petroleum reserve of 250 million barrels.

Department of Energy experts believe Dr Schlesinger's prediction might be on the optimistic side, but they stress that the trend should be clearly towards a lower overall import level.

They add that the prediction depends on the economy growing at the forecast rate, rather than at a faster rate.

The Carter Administration is

forecasting a 5 per cent growth rate for real gross national product next year. Many economists see this as being too optimistic, and a lower rate will produce even lower levels of oil imports.

Past estimates suggest a trade deficit this year of up to \$30,000m and fears of a deficit of equal size, or even larger, have been the main factors behind the recent pressures on the dollar. It appears, however, that some actual improvement in the trade deficit may be attained in 1978.

Progress in talks between the United States and Japanese governments on a reduction in the Japanese current account surplus could have a substantially greater impact on reducing the 1978 deficit than the new estimate of a reduction in oil imports.

Mr Richard Rivers, the general counsel at the office of the United States special trade representative, who has

just returned from a round of negotiations in Tokyo, said to-day that some progress had been achieved.

He said that Mr Robert Strauss, the United States trade ambassador, was likely to go to Tokyo for further negotiations in the next month. He added that in his talks in Tokyo this week "we had a frank exchange of views... we made a series of suggestions to the Japanese on how they should reduce their overall balance of payments surplus".

Dr Schlesinger said the Administration was "cautiously optimistic" that Opec would agree to freeze oil prices at its Caracas meeting. He said that his recent talks with the Shah of Iran and with Arab oil producers disclosed that the leading Opec members were acutely aware that policies had to be adopted by all, not just by the consuming countries, to tackle the problem of future supply insufficiency.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR****Industrial law: Britain has gone farther than most**

From Mr W. G. Poeton

Sir, Mr Mordley's final plea (November 21) in his attempt to uphold the Employment Protection Act is for us in this country to fall into line with other advanced capitalist countries. This is typical of the academic approach. I can only conclude that in couching his appeal in these terms he is totally unaware of the feelings among those who run independent companies in Europe.

I attended the annual general meeting of the BDS (Germany) in Bad Durheim a fortnight ago. At this meeting there was considerable criticism of the industrial legislation governing the activities of independent companies in the EEC and deep concern was expressed about the 6,000,000 unemployed in Europe. The general feeling was that the legislation was too onerous for those operating in the independent sector.

The truth of the matter is

that Britain has gone farther than other advanced western countries. Nowhere else in Europe does industry have to tolerate the legalized anarchy of the closed shop. Nor is there the equivalent of the politically motivated ACAS, whose powers to intrude and consequently disrupt are a grave impediment to industrial efficiency.

I think if Mr Mordley is honest with himself he will have to admit that all is not as well as he would have us believe. Otherwise Mr Harold Lever would not have been asked by the Prime Minister to look into the problems of small firms. Yours faithfully,  
W. G. POETON,

Chairman,  
The Union of Independent Companies,  
A. T. Poeton (Gloucester  
Plating) Ltd,  
Eastern Avenue,  
Gloucester,  
November 21.

From Mr C. G. Grill  
Sir, Mr Mordley's (November 21) rightly says that employers can lawfully dismiss their employees—provided that they follow the correct procedure. Quite so; but the correct procedure, involving a written contract of employment, a verbal warning in the presence of a shop steward (if any) or other witness, a written warning and even a final warning, is cumbersome and time-wasting.

The small employer is his own personnel manager and simply has no time or inclination to conform to such requirements which were evidently drawn up by such experts as Mr Mordley. No wonder the Act is widely known as the Employment Prevention Act. Yours faithfully,  
C. G. GRILL,  
Box Hedge,  
Acton Bridge,  
Northwich, Cheshire.

**A 'weakness' in insurance**

From Mr Ronald N. Page  
Sir, After nearly 45 years in the insurance industry, I find Mr Bordin's letter (November 14) both disappointing and unconvincing.

The case of Woolcott v Sun Alliance & London has obviously uncovered a weakness in current insurance practice and it would have earned the EIA greater respect to have admitted as much.

Mr Woolcott insisted that he would have disclosed his prior conviction of robbery had he been asked. No normally perceptive member of the insurance public could be expected to guess, when proposing for house insurance, that disclosure of a past robbery conviction is expected in answer to the question "Are there any other matters which you wish to be taken into account?"

The inclusion in the proposed of a simple question on the lines of "Have you ever been convicted of any criminal offence? If so, please give date and details?" would eliminate any misunderstanding. The bearing of any conviction on the nature of the risk proposed would then be within the insurer's discretion.

The industry's image is not helped by appearing to hide behind smoke screens and I feel Mr Edmondson's letter (November 4) called for greater elucidation by the industry of what it regards as material facts.

RONALD N. PAGE,  
52 Wise Lane,  
Mill Hill, London, NW7.

young trained craftsmen, one even going so far as to say that, with an age limit of 40 years around 65, he believed the possibility of having to close down with a full order book, including substantial exports.

Can Mr Bolton or anyone else tell us how to change this bureaucratic ignorance or indifference?

Yours faithfully,  
WILLIAM J. F. BENTON,  
Master,  
FELIX L. LEVY,  
Upper Warden,  
The Worshipful Company of  
Turners,  
Giltspur House,  
56 Giltspur Street,  
London, EC1A 9PD.

**Architects' fees**

From Mr Philip Groves  
Sir, As a past chairman of the Architects Registration Council of the United Kingdom may I join Mr Tarrant-Willis (November 15) in asking the role of the Monopolies Commission?

The report on architects' services published last week after four years of inquiry recommends the abolition of the architects' mandatory fee scale because it is applied by more than one-third of those offering their services as architects, apparently the definition of a monopoly. It is the title not the function which is protected by Act of Parliament and many buildings are designed by those who are not architects.

As I alone in wondering why architects constitute a monopoly because they have a mandatory fee scale whereas groups of workers who apply rigid closed shops and minimum wage levels are not?

Yours faithfully,  
PHILIP GROVES,  
Northaw House,  
Potters Bar,  
Hertfordshire,  
November 16.

**Urgent need for training in the crafts**

From the Master and Upper Warden of the Worshipful Company of Turners

Sir, Mr John Bolton's article on the Government's attitude to small firms (November 2) is as clear and helpful as was his committee's report. There is, however, a point missed in that article which requires urgent attention—the provision of training in crafts for production other than on large scale.

The Worshipful Company of Turners was the first of the livery companies to promote technical education in its craft, and that some hundred years ago. We still continue, since we regard ourselves as responsible for maintaining and, where

possible, improving the standards of our craft.

Others, it seems, take a different view. For many years the Greater London Council had an evening class in wood turning—only one in their vast area—but machine work occupied five nights a week under the guidance of skilled turners, now Freeman Priorymen of this company. At the end of the last session the course was discontinued as "the space was needed for the expansion of the joinery classes". Our representations to the then Labour-controlled council were disregarded.

All commercial turners tell us that their greatest need is for

young trained craftsmen, one even going so far as to say that, with an age limit of 40 years around 65, he believed the possibility of having to close down with a full order book, including substantial exports.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## Interest rates in the melting pot

Do the monetary authorities want minimum lending rate up this Friday or not? Certainly, short-term rates continued their recent upward trend yesterday. In particular, three month treasury bills were nudging levels which, if repeated at Friday's weekly bill tender, would signal a modest rise in MLR.

The answer at this stage—and things can change fast—is that the authorities almost certainly do not want MLR to rise unless market forces over the next 48 hours become so strong that, in the longer run, resistance could only prove self-defeating. The reasons for this attitude are threefold.

First, the authorities are almost certainly reluctant to be panicked into action so long as they feel that the October bank lending figures may not in fact herald a significant change in trend.

Second, they may well have decided yet on what the appropriate measure should be to deal with the potential money supply overshoot. Should they let MLR edge up gently? Or should they go the whole hog, pushing MLR by at least a couple of points in one go and reinforcing the move by quantitative controls on the banking sector?

Finally, there must be very strong political pressure to hold the ship steady for the moment. Even a modest rise in MLR, particularly if it merely served to aggravate nerves, could put a further cut in mortgage rates in jeopardy. Little needs to be said about how the Government would probably view the thought of a larger rise at this stage.

Meanwhile, the recent increased interest in the Government's two variable stocks did not apparently spill over particularly strongly into the first batch of floating rate local authority bonds yesterday—margins being fixed at 1 per cent over six month LIBOR for the three year bonds and 1 per cent for the issues of just under five years.

Comet

### Volatile demand for consumer durables

The consumer durables market is still exhibiting unnerving volatility. After a poor summer the sales of white and brown goods simultaneously staged a recovery in September and October only to fall back again this month.

To bring the picture up to date, Comet Radios said yesterday that there had been an encouraging pick-up in the past four days which it hopes is a favourable omen for the Christmas period.

Conventional wisdom suggests that higher wage settlements and tax handouts will combine to push disposable income into spending on durables; certainly the shares of durable retailers have gone some way in following the multiple stores up relative to the market.

An important factor is replacement buying of goods bought in the 1973 consumer boom which is thought to be having a real impact on the market.

In the case of Comet this has all come at a critical time. In the year to end-August it made £3.9m pre-tax profits against £1.5m last time.

This year should see the end of its main expansion programme into satellite shops, so a good deal of future growth depends on the validity of the more optimistic projections regarding consumer spending rather than mere physical extension.

Certainly in the medium-term expansion should leave Comet with an 8 to 10 per cent market share against its current 5 per cent and the low ownership of durables in the United Kingdom against comparable countries suggest that is a strong position to be in. On a shorter view the shares at 148p, up 12p yesterday, are selling at 10 times fully-taxed earnings with a yield of 3.6 per cent and are taking full account of immediate consumer spending prospects.

Johnson & Firth Brown

### Paper for the short term

A year ago Johnson & Firth Brown was prepared to raise £10.3m on a one-for-three rights issue at 35p, at 25 per cent discount on the prevailing market price, to buy another Sheffield steelsman, Dunford & Elliott. That idea was scrapped, but it was exactly the kind of imaginative expansionism that the market had come to expect from the JFB management. Twelve months later, with Dunford in the end subsumed

by Lourho, the steel upturn which the imagination relied on has still not happened. But JFB is now able to raise £10.1m on the much better terms of a one-for-five at 50p, a discount of only 15 per cent.

The difference in the reasons for the issues, however, could not be more marked. Since the unsuccessful attempt on Dunford, the acquisition by JFB of British Rollmakers and a change of accounting policy for deferred tax reduced gearing from 71 per cent to 57 per cent and a rescheduling of debt since the June year end has virtually replaced a bank overdraft with a £13m seven-year term loan with an average interest rate currently of nine per cent.

Raising of £10m a year ago would have been a gamble on expansion; the present issue is an insurance policy against continuing recession, and yet it still is not cheap.

At the issue price the yield is 14.2 per cent, expensive money even though JFB will start recovering advance corporation tax in 1980, and even more paper is added to the vast quantities of JFB paper already circulating. Without the issue, the number of shares in issue by December, assuming the likely conversion of the convertible preference shares would have increased by 50 per cent to more than 90m. This rightly adds a fifth to that.

With industrial action both internally and at customers' works affecting first half profits, even though growth is expected for the full year, the shares are likely to be under pressure. The benefits to shareholders in taking up the rights, thus depend even more on the effects of the upturn when it comes. JFB's caution in raising money now may be good for the shareholders in the long-term. In the short-term it bridges the gap before the upturn turns the investment into profit, while cash flow is inadequate to meet heavy capital investments and a growing working capital requirement. Shareholders may well feel that the underwriters can best be left to do this.

The SEC tentatively planned to implement its decision on these restrictions on January 1 but it has not made a public statement about it yet, it seems likely that it will postpone the move. The measure is designed to eliminate rules which the commission claims foster anti-competitive practices.

Mr Andrew Klein, the commission's director of market regulation, says that the restrictions inhibit the creation of an atmosphere where brokers, like other businessmen, have to take risks and be efficient to survive.

Mr William Batten, the chairman of the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE), recently said that the elimination of the off-board trading system could have a "wrenching effect" on the industry. A large number of expert observers believed that this decision could possibly "be the end of organized stock

markets as a poor substitute for actual figures as all shareholders have to go as fairly as any one else". And one of the oddities over the past week has been that results have not been as uniformly good as the sharp fall in interest rates and dealing opportunities in the equity and gilt markets would have indicated.

Yesterday it was Hambros's turn, whose chairman is Mr Jocelyn Hambro (above), to show its paces with earnings "well above those of the corresponding period" last year. Merchant banking appears to have been the star performer with a "substantial increase" though that has stemmed mainly from lower interest rates and gilt market activities which are unlikely to be repeated in the second half.

Meanwhile, the overall level of loan demand fell back although acceptances were higher. The Euromarkets continue to be a growth point with private bond placements especially profitable, helped in part by the link with Prudential Assurance of America which took the whole of two private Scandinavian placings.

Despite the further drop in the shipping market, bad shipping loans have now worked themselves out of Hambros system and even though the tanker problems have now filtered through to bulk carriers the bank is happy about its low exposure here.

Underlining its confidence—and perhaps to upstage the Treasury for turning down its application for a higher dividend last year when Hambro Life went public—Hambros is lumping the whole of its maximum permitted increase this year into the interim dividend—raising it by 1p to 3.85p—where its surplus advanced corporation tax payments means it can do so at a reduced cost. That the shares slipped 7p to 208p despite this news is testament to shareholders' disappointment now that interest rates look to be heading upwards.

## Business Diary: Hayes comes to market • BATsmanship

It is no surprise to hear a defence of the Government's abrasive attitude towards the common agriculture policy of the EEC. Since John Silkin became Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food just over a year ago his department has become one of the most talkative in Whitehall.

The claim made in Edinburgh yesterday that British policy did not reflect "an overturning of the basic structure of the policy so much as the need to reform its operation" has been made many times this year. The difference yesterday was that it was made by a civil servant rather than a politician.

Brian Hayes, aged 48, has blossomed into a public figure this year after more than 20 years in the ministry of which

most were spent in posts demanding delicate domestic and international haggling about food policy.

His long speech, given at a conference organized by the East of Scotland College of Agriculture, reflected Silkin's determination to strike a balance in national food policy in which the needs of consumers are not pushed into the background by the demands of farmers.

That made Hayes' speech doubly remarkable since as Deputy Secretary (Agriculture) at the ministry he is one of Whitehall's top men in farming as opposed to consumer policy.

He is also a member of the advisory committee, chaired by Lord Rothschild, which guides the Nuffield Centre for Agricultural Strategy at the University of Reading.

On Monday the centre published a report by Professor John Marsh of the University of Aberdeen calling for safeguards in EEC farm policy to discourage farmers from creating expensive surpluses. The ministry reacted instantly with an unusually long statement which applauded the Marsh report as "a stimulating paper whose ideas certainly deserve study".

Since Hayes is in charge of farm policy at the ministry and on the advisory committee to the body which published the Marsh report, the anonymous

ministry assessment can safely be regarded as his.

■ Sir Richard Dobson surprised everybody—with the recent press conference organized by the East of Scotland College of Agriculture, reflected Silkin's determination to strike a balance in national food policy in which the needs of consumers are not pushed into the background by the demands of farmers.

Speaking in London Macadam told the English Speaking Union that "a year or so ago" the company looked at a number of other European countries as an alternative headquarters to Britain.

In the end, he said, the tobacco group stayed because of British leaders' contacts in and understanding of "world situations". A Civil Service that was clever and clean, and an enduring political stability.

Macadam, who took over as chairman and chief executive from Sir Richard in April last year, was born and began his BAT career in the Argentine, and has always been a foreign operations specialist.

The tobacco group employs about 37,600 people in this country, and three times as many elsewhere. BAT is said to be keen to expand in the United Kingdom.

75 years ago, but the company's operations in the United States, West Germany and Brazil are much bigger than here.

Macadam did not mention the relocation study in the last report and accounts—for the year to September 30 last—although he did grumble about United Kingdom taxation of dividends from overseas and the Bullock report majority proposals on industrial demarcation.

According to Horst-Ludwig Riemer, economics minister of North Rhine-Westphalia and a founder member of Kirschner's committee, the shoplifters' body will be equivalent to the cost of 300,000 Volkswagens.

■ Three years Karl Heinz Kirschner has been trying to alert his fellow West Germans to the problem of crimes committed by the well-off, particularly shoplifting.

He has at last made headline news—but promptly landed himself in a row with the church. He is general manager of a body calling itself the Committee for Combating Crimes of Affluence and was reported as saying that 117 nuns had been caught shoplifting in one Munich store in a year.

Today Kirschner, who says he was misquoted, is a sadder but wiser man. The reports were promptly and angrily denied by the Munich diocesan authorities which had checked with the church in question and found that there had been no case of a genuine nun being involved in shoplifting.

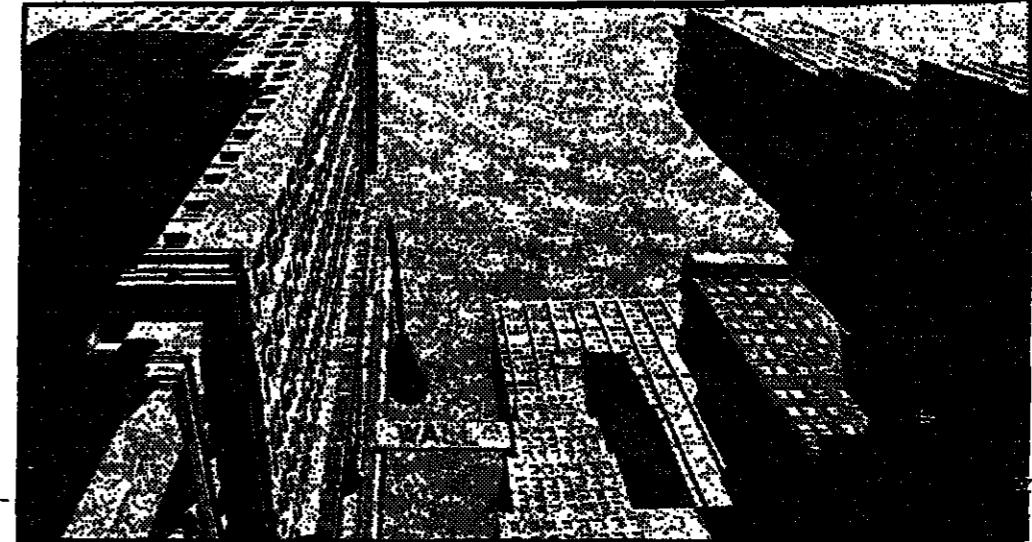
It seems that some of the more enterprising German

### Stock markets under stress—3

## End of an institutional era in the United States?

The last of three articles on pressures for change in the securities markets looks at the position in America

New York skyline above Wall Street



exchanges in this country".

Mr Paul Kolon, the president of the American Stock Exchange (AMEX), has given a warning that the SEC decision could "cripple" the brokerage business. He strongly disagrees with the SEC view that trading in listed securities is restricted by the off-board trading rules.

The SEC's plans are the result of congressional moves in 1975 calling for abolition of restrictive practices in the securities industry and for the creation of a national market system for securities. The SEC is under great pressure from Congress to move faster on this front, but this pressure is to some degree offset by a big lobbying campaign by the exchanges, headed by the chairman of many of the main features of a national market system had been fully developed.

Mr Birnbaum argues forcefully that the brokerage industry is "fantastically competitive" and that it is nonsense to assert that getting rid of the off-board trading restrictions will enhance competition. He and many other leaders of the industry believe that this step will reduce, rather than increase, competition.

Mr Kolon warned the SEC in August that this move would result in less efficient pricing

of securities, no protection for the public on orders on which a price limit is placed, and fragmentation, not consolidation, of the market for the shares of corporations. He said that "in the long run the securities industry could evolve into what amounts to an oligopoly", involving a handful of very large, well capitalized firms, among which there would be less competition than existed today.

Mr Birnbaum adds that "the new guy will have no useful role under such a system".

Men like Mr Kolon, Mr Batten and Mr Birnbaum accept that there might be benefits in reforms, but they insist that eliminating the off-board trading rules should only take place when the main features of a national market system had been fully developed.

Such a national system would bind all the stock exchanges of the nation together, producing more national competition and a better chance for investors to view the market as a whole and obtain the best prices. There have been hundreds of highly detailed suggestions on what the components of such a system should be, but many people agree with the sort of ideas that Mr Batten has been outlining.

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and, finally, an electronic link among all competing market centres that will ensure the all-important interaction among orders in reported stocks.

These approaches, which are widely supported, essentially involve the maintenance of stock exchanges as key centres for securities transactions. In an age of highly sophisticated computers and telecommunications technology it can be argued, however, that the exchanges are no longer necessary and that all business can be done easily and fully supervised by authorities, from company offices.

But many people in the industry assert that the stock exchanges are essential, providing a well organized auction system that can be well regulated and that has proved to be highly efficient. Many chemists of publicly quoted companies have written to the SEC to stress the benefits of the present arrangements.

For example, Mr John Fisher, of the Ball Corporation of Indiana, wrote to the commission recently to say that it was difficult to ensure a healthy market for his company's stock in the over-the-counter market.

At any rate, "D-day"—the day when the off-board restrictions are removed—is approaching and the brokerage houses and the stock exchanges are preparing for the event. Some brokers will find it impossible to survive, while others will become more specialized in particular areas of the investment business. It seems improbable that the consequences will be as grave as many brokers suggest.

However, the SEC has failed so far to demonstrate clearly and effectively what the main benefits of its actions will be to the general public. A more competitive brokerage industry may result but, as was the case with the abolition of fixed commission rates, the big institutional investors, rather than private individuals, may be the main beneficiaries.

**Frank Vogl**  
US Economics  
Correspondent

Peter Norman

## Why West German unions are likely to turn a deaf ear to the five wise men

unemployment is unlikely to fall significantly below the million level.

The five-man body is not a team of government officials in disguise and reports in the past have at times given governments in Bonn more grounds for annoyance than food for thought.

It is also fair to point out that although its members are popularly referred to as the "five wise men", the council cannot be said to be infallible. In drawing up their program, the five academics belonging to the council have shown as much ability to see as other forecasters in recent years.

But their latest report is an attempt to break the log jam in economic thinking in West Germany which has arisen since the recession, as it has become apparent that the standard recipes for creating economic growth and restoring full employment have failed.

The council has taken the thesis that it is inadequate demands that is restricting growth in West Germany and turned it on its head.

It argues that what is needed is more production. For in a market economy like West Germany, a lack of profitable production possibilities brings in its wake a lack of income and in turn a lack of demand.

Four of the five council members plead that wage increases next year should be held down to 3.5 per cent—level with the expected rise in productivity—as opposed to a 5.5 per cent increase and unchanged policies assumed in the "status quo" forecast.

They say that a wage increase of this order as part of a medium-term strategy could pave the way for a 5 per cent annual growth in GNP and decline in the number of unemployed of 200,000 a year.

Such thinking takes into account the continuing absence of strong industrial investment in West Germany and the growing tendency on the part of industrialists to shift production abroad.

It also runs counter to what has been the main alternative theory for restoring full employment as propagated by the German trade union movement.

This hinges on higher state spending and the awarding of real wage increases to increase employment at the same time as reducing working hours through agreements reached in collective wage bargaining, so that the available work in the country can be "more fairly" shared out.

All five members of the council argue that this course could lead to a recession after 1978.

To back this standpoint the five wise men synthesise recent demands. They postulate wage increases next year of 7.5 per cent (including a notional 2 per cent to account for an inflationary gap), a 10% increase in government spending, part of which would be used to employ an extra 50,000 public employees.

Their conclusion is that gross national product would grow by 2.5 per cent in real terms next year and that a temporary fall in unemployment by the end of 1978 would shortly afterwards be threatened by a slackness in overall demand.

The five members of the council have undoubtedly been

right in pinpointing costs as the principal factor restricting production and employment in West Germany. Viewed internationally, unit labour costs in the federal republic are among the highest in the western world.

Where their report is less satisfactory is in its apparent disregard of the political and social realities in the federal republic.

For the all important wage round for 1978 is already underway. The powerful IG Metall trade union has already submitted a claim for wage increases of 7 per cent for the 210,000 workers in the Ruhr and Bremen steel industries.

As inflation year and next is unlikely to rise above the 4 per cent level, the claim represents a demand for a substantial real wage increase. Furthermore, it has been made in an industry that is working at between 50 and 60 per cent of capacity and is making heavy losses.

In the circumstances, pleading for a 3.5 per cent wage

# Europa

Only in West Germany does manufacturing industry still hold first place

## Rapid growth to the top of marketed services sector

Most of what we produce is intangible. Marketed services like retailing, transport and finance are the most important single source of national income in all Europa countries except Germany. Here manufacturing still holds first place.

This could be because Germany, unlike the other countries, obtains a higher value added per person from manufacturing than from marketed services. None the less the importance of marketed services is still growing in all the countries, including Germany. Both volume and prices for this sector have risen at above average rates.

Between 1970 and 1975 manufacturing, the second largest activity, declined in importance in Germany and the United Kingdom, where it has since recovered steadily in the other two countries. (Nineteen-seventy-five is the latest date for which comparable figures are available, but the pattern is unlikely to have changed since them.)

### Rapid growth in Bonn and UK

Non-marketed services account for the greatest proportion (about one-sixth) of national income in the United Kingdom and Germany. Growth in the two countries has been particularly rapid since relative volume and output costs have both increased. In France relative costs have risen but volume has been held in check, while in Italy the increases in both volume and costs have been fairly small.

As a result the proportion of national income produced by these activities is one seventh in Italy. In all four countries the non-marketed sector is more important in terms of numbers employed than it is in terms of value added. This is because output per person is low. A possible reason is that output is valued at cost and the allowance made for returns to capital is inadequate.

On the other hand if a service is not sold in the open market its value at the margin may be less than its cost.

The remaining three sources of income are building and construction, fuel and power and agriculture. Costs have risen so rapidly that this sector's share of value added has increased in spite of a fall in the volume of work. Italy and France have also shown net output price increases which have almost offset the drop in volume, but in Germany the increase in prices has been no greater than the average for the other sectors.

Fuel and power produces

James Rothman

### SOURCES OF NATIONAL INCOME AND CONSUMPTION—1975

	Germany (1) %	France (2) %	UK (3) %	Italy (4) %
Value added (3) from:				
Marketed services (4)	38	46	48	41
Manufacturing	41	32	33	30
Non-marketed services (5)	16	14	17	12
Building and construction	9	9	7	9
Fuel and power	6	4	6	6
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	3	6	2	10
Taxes linked to imports	3	3	1	3
Overseas income less expenditure	-2	-1	n	n
Consumption of fixed capital	-14	-13	-12	-11
National disposable income	100	100	100	100
National expenditure	99	100	103	100

Source: Table 2, National Accounts Detailed Tables 1970-1975, Statistical Office of the European Communities.

n = less than 1 per cent.

(1) VAT exclusive on purchases of capital goods has been divided between the sources in proportion to their value added.

(2) VAT has been pro-rated between all sources except for non-marketed services.

(3) All market prices is, including indirect taxes.

(4) Excluding net receipts of interest from other sectors.

(5) Private consumption on education, health, defence and administration and construction and other non-marketed services eg, charities and other non-profit institutions.

# BRITISH ASSETS TRUST LIMITED

	30th Sept 1977	30th Sept 1976
Gross Revenue	£5.2m	£4.7m
Total Assets	£101.7m	£86.2m
Earnings per share	2.26p	1.81p
Dividend per share	2.00p	1.60p
Net Assets per share	85.00p	66.88p

## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

### Stock markets

## No solace for sad shares as gilts shiver

With an unsettled monetary background looming large in sentiment investors were not disposed to put aside their present caution and for the seventh day running share prices lost ground.

Fears that interest rates may start an upward trend this week sent a shudder through both the equity and gilt-edged markets and though early losses were halved as late buyers came in the FT Index closed another 3.5 lower at 47.8.

Money supply and industrial worries were also in the forefront of dealers' minds but a higher number of bargains marked provided a more encouraging topic of conversation. At 5,491 they were 1,000 more

due tomorrow ICI closed unchanged at 362p after touching 358p at one stage.

Worries over today's half-time figures left Metal Box 10p lower at 290p while others to lose ground were Fisons 10p to 359p and Unilever where the fall was 8p to 509p.

In the stores sector Comet Radio had a volatile day in front of and after figures. Caution ahead of the statement had the shares down as low as 133p but after the statement slipped to 131p and then 130p.

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Reports that BOFC is planning moves to raise its Alcoo sales did nothing for the shares at 75p but Wair Group continued to react to the breakdown of the merger with S. Oshers losing 6p to 112p. Barton Transport received some speculative support closing with a rise of 10p to 92p after recent figures which proved a disappointment.

In the shipping sector the speculators withdrew from Furness Withy with the shares

dipping 12p to 328p. British & Commonwealth was another in retreat losing 9p to 275p and after a statement Ropner 'A' was lowered 3p to 45p.

Favourable comment helped Carrington Viyella to go against the trend rising a penny to 34p but most of the drunks shares spent the day in retreat, notably Guinness 5p to 183p, A. Bell 4p to 360p and Bass Charrington 3p to 150p.

Two leisure shares to come under some pressure were Coral which dipped 6p to 227p and Ladbrokes where the fall was 9p to 175p. In oils Oil Exploration retreated 8p to 229p as profits were taken after some recent strong, if speculative, gains.

There were isolated spots of firmness in insurance notably Royal up 3p to 380p, and Sun Alliance where the rise was 5p to 550p. But interest rate worries hit properties with

Chesterfield at 285p, Great Portland 278p and MEC at 107p all down by five points.

There was an even weaker performance from Stock Conversion which closed up lower at 220p.

Profits below market expectations hit Powell Duffryn with the shares closing 25p off at

188p. Transparent Paper was forced to slump losing 8p to 67p after its statement but those scoring gains included Sketchley 2p to 92s and Narborough which added 12p to 33p. Leboff slipped 2p to 47p.

After hours ICI extended its lead further and most of the "blue chips" gained a penny or two. Colmore Investments came out with lower profits and lost 4p to close at 215p. Equitable recovered on October 21 with 46.13p (12.181 bargain). Active stocks yesterday according to Exchange Telegraph were BAT Ind. GEC, BP Shell, Beecham, Goss, V.A. ICI, BP partly paid, Unilever, Wair Group, Boots, Powell Duffryn, Metal Box, Furness Withy, Comet Radios, Davy International and Avon Rubber.

Within building products, the paint division, which consists of Beaver paint activities and Hygienic Paint, made a 16.6m profit, 10 per cent from soft trim, 15 per cent from hard trim, 15 per cent from foam, 13 per cent from building products, and 7 per cent from property.

This indicates a dependence on the paint industry of just over 40 per cent which Mr Healey hopes to reduce to a third next year.

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Commenting on the future

Mr Healey said the Beaver acquisition had reduced the impact of seasonal factors and he expected second half profits to show some improvement in the first half. However, the shares fell 2p to 25p yesterday.

## Beaver helps CH Inds to bumper half time result

C. H. Industrials, the minor accessories to paints group, more than doubled pre-tax profits to £43.6m in the six months to September 30.

The figures include the first six months trading of the recently-acquired Beaver Group. Mr Tim Healey, CHI's chairman, put the Beaver profits contribution at roughly £100,000.

Trading profits of £60,000 were broken down to show 10 per cent from soft trim, 15 per cent from hard trim, 15 per cent from foam, 13 per cent from building products, and 7 per cent from property.

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PENTLAND SECURITIES

ICFC is providing a £16m loan to group to help with purchase of the furniture arm of Barton, Edinburgh, in Europe. Barton is acquiring a loan of £25,000 and group is paying rest of the purchase price.

## Ship slump fails to stop Ropner

By Victor Feltstead

In spite of a more-than-doubled interest bill of £21.6m Ropner Holdings managed to post pre-tax profits from £1.25m to £1.35m in the half-year to September 30.

However, as stated in the last annual report, the year's pre-tax profit, before extraordinary items, is expected to be lower than last year, when it was a best-ever £2.8m. After extraordinary items, including a surplus on sale of an investment, net profits available for shareholders will not be very different from 1975-77's record £1.15m.

Shipping's pre-tax profit more than halved from £2.4m to £0.8m, but engineering rose from £58.4m to £97.9m. Insurance, banking improved from £25.9m to £26.1m.

The loss from shipping loans and United States investments, the chairman reports.

As predicted at the time of the rights issue, the interest dividend has gone up 28 per cent to 5.3p gross.

The board again intends to pay the maximum dividend in the usual instalments; the gross interim payment rises from 1.46p to 1.61p.

## City verdict on Powell Duffryn: 'good, but must try harder'

By Alison Mitchell

The key factor in the half-time results of the Powell Duffryn Group is the interpretation of the word "significant".

For, at the time of the £6.6m rights issue in July, Sir Alec Ogilvie, chairman, reported that the year had begun well with the trading profit for the first quarter "significantly greater" than for the same period last time.

However an upturn in profits of around a quarter for the six months to September 30 failed to please the City. Marketers men had been looking for a pre-tax profit in the region of £7.5m and a rise from £5m to £6.3m was just not enough. The shares fell 25p to 185p.

Turnover rose £33.4m to £155.6m in the period, widening pre-tax margins by a full point to 5.3 per cent.

Much of the headway came from the engineering division. Growth, on this side, which has been promised over the years from the group, is now beginning to show and the chairman is confident that there is still

a lot more to come. In the six months, trading profits on this side increased from £2m to £3.4m.

Fuel distribution also showed a remarkable upturn. Compared to the heatwave summer of 1976, this year's changeable weather boosted profits from £225,000 to £758,000.

As predicted at the time of the rights issue, the interest dividend has gone up 28 per cent to 5.3p gross.

London Shop Property optimism

A cheerful annual report

comes from London Shop Property Trust, the property and

housebuilding concern. Sir Cyril Black, chairman, declares that,

given a continuance of present

national conditions, the board

views the group's future with "restrained optimism".

During the first eight months of the calendar year 1977 the increase in rental income, from rent revisions, renewals and relettings and first lettings on new developments, was about £222,000 pa. The board intends to have a professional valuation of all the group's properties as at April 30 next. Pre-tax profits rose from £501,000 to £558,000 in 1976-77.

In their report, the auditors say the profit on redemption of mortgage has been treated in the accounts as an exceptional item, the effect being to increase group profits by £27,000.

Overseas losses at James H. Dennis

Knocked by overseas losses, the Manchester-based engineer-

ing group, James H. Dennis, has fallen from the 1975-76 peak.

Turnover rose from £4.85m to

£5.2m in the year to August

31 but pre-tax profits fell from

a record of £392,000 to £302,000.

These figures include a surplus on









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